This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Asthma	Adrenergic receptor β_2 (ADRB2)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inverse agonists of ADRB2 could potentially treat chronic asthma. In an antigen-driven mouse model of asthma, knockout of the <i>Adrb2</i> gene or chronic treatment with nadolol, an inverse agonist β-blocker, decreased asthma symptoms, whereas chronic treatment with alprenolol, a β-blocker without inverse agonist properties, did not. Next steps could include determining whether the mouse findings apply to human asthma.</p> <p>Inverseon Inc's INV102 nadolol is in Phase II testing to treat asthma.</p> <p>At least 10 other companies have compounds targeting ADRB2 in development stages ranging from clinical to marketed to treat acute asthma.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.195 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Nguyen, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 26, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0810902106</p> <p>Contact: Richard A. Bond, University of Houston, Houston, Texas e-mail: rabond@uh.edu</p>