

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation; rheumatoid arthritis (RA); type 1 diabetes	NF- κ B; IL-1 β ; tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α)	<p>Studies in human cell cultures and in whole blood suggest that chemically stable imidazolines could treat RA and other inflammatory indications. In cultured HeLa cells, the imidazoline derivatives inhibited NF-κB. In whole blood samples, the derivatives lowered levels of proinflammatory cytokines TNF-α and IL-1β compared with those seen using no treatment. Ongoing work includes <i>in vivo</i> evaluation and optimization of the lead candidate.</p> <p>There are at least 10 compounds in development or marketed that target TNF-α in autoimmune and inflammation indications.</p> <p>SciBX 2(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.324 Published online Feb. 26, 2009</p>	Patented; exclusively licensed to TCH Pharmaceuticals Inc.	<p>Kahlon, D. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 16, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm8013162</p> <p>Contact: Jetze J. Tepe, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. e-mail: tepe@chemistry.msu.edu</p>