This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Tumor necrosis factor (TNF) and nitric oxide synthase 2 (inducible) (NOS2; iNOS)-producing dendritic cells (tipDCs)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that diminishing, but not eliminating, tipDC recruitment to the lungs could be useful for treating influenza. In mice, infection with lethal influenza A viruses led to increased selective accumulation of tipDCs in the airways. In infected mice, the peroxisome proliferation-activated receptor-γ (PPARG; PPAR-γ) agonist pioglitazone lowered tipDC migration and protected the mice from lethal influenza challenge compared with what was seen using saline control. Next steps include further investigating how tipDCs are regulated and how they induce damage to the host.</p> <p>Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Eli Lilly and Co. market Actos pioglitazone to treat type 2 diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.408 Published online March 12, 2009</p>	Patent application filed by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; available for licensing	<p>Aldridge, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 9, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0900655106</p> <p>Contact: Robert G. Webster, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: robert.webster@stjude.org</p>