

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Pulmonary disease</b>				
Cystic fibrosis (CF)	Interferon-related developmental regulator 1 (IFRD1; PC4)	<p>Genomics analyses, cellular assays and mouse studies suggest that targeting IFRD1 could help treat CF. A genomewide analysis of SNPs revealed an association between <i>IFRD1</i> polymorphisms and lung function variation in CF patients. <i>Ifrd1</i><sup>-/-</sup> mice challenged with bacteria showed less weight loss and less airway and systemic inflammation than wild-type controls. Ongoing <i>in vitro</i> studies are investigating IFRD1's precise mechanism of action in the differentiation of immune cells like neutrophils.</p> <p>Novartis AG markets TOBI tobramycin inhalation solution to treat CF. Genentech Inc.'s Pulmozyme is approved to treat CF. Compounds in Phase III for CF include Inspire Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s denufosol, Pharmaxis Ltd.'s bronchitol as well as PTC124 from partners PTC Therapeutics Inc. and Genzyme Corp. At least 17 companies have therapies in preclinical to early stage clinical testing to treat CF.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.420</b>  <b>Published online March 12, 2009</b></p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Gu, Y. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Feb. 25, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature07811</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Christopher L. Karp, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Research Foundation, Cincinnati, Ohio</p> <p>e-mail: <a href="mailto:chris.karp@chmcc.org">chris.karp@chmcc.org</a></p>