This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Pulmonary disease				
Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF)	WNT1 inducible signaling pathway protein 1 (WISP1)	Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that inhibiting WISP1 could be useful for treating IPF. In alveolar epithelial type II cells from mice with pulmonary fibrosis and from patients with IPF, levels of WISP1 were higher than those in control cells. In a mouse model of pulmonary fibrosis, neutralizing mAbs for WISP1 lowered expression of several profibrotic markers and increased survival compared with what was seen using control antibody. Next steps include designing therapeutics that target WISP1 and identifying downstream effectors of WISP1 signaling that may also be therapeutic targets.	Patent and licensing status not applicable	Konigshoff, M. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online March 16, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI33950 Contact: Oliver Eickelberg, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany e-mail: oliver.eickelberg@helmholtz-muenchen.de
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