## This week in therapeutics

| Indication | Target/marker/ pathway | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Inflammation** | | | | |
| Inflammation | Interferon-γ (IFN-γ); tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α); vitamin D receptor (VDR) | A study in mice and in cell cultures identified a vitamin $D_3$ analog that could be useful for treating inflammation. In peripheral blood mononuclear cells, 1*R*,25(*OH*)2-16-*ene*-20-cyclopropyl–vitamin $D_3$ or its 24-*oxo* derivative produced dose-dependent decreases in TNF-α and IFN-γ secretion compared with what was seen using the natural vitamin $D_3$. In treated mice, the 24-*oxo* derivative showed significantly lower potential for hypercalcemia than its parent compounds ($p<0.001$). Ongoing studies include evaluating vitamin $D_3$ derivatives in intestinal bowel disease (IBD).<br>At least five companies, including BioXell S.p.A., have VDR receptor agonists in development.<br><br>***SciBX*** **2(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.542**<br>**Published online April 2, 2009** | Compounds patented; available for licensing from BioXell | Laverny, G. *et al. J. Med. Chem.*; published online March 23, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801365a<br>**Contact:** Luciano Adorini, BioXell S.p.A., Milan, Italy<br>e-mail: LAdorini@interceptpharma.com |