

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Glomerulonephritis	Angiotensin II type 1 receptor (AGTR1; AT ₁ R)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that blocking the renal angiotensin system could prevent autoimmune disease-related glomerulonephritis. In a mouse model of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), animals lacking <i>Agtr1</i> subtype A had accelerated mortality and more severe kidney structural injury than mice overexpressing the receptor. In the same knockout mice, the generic angiotensin receptor inhibitor losartan lowered kidney disease markers including proteinuria, glomerular pathology and cytokine mRNA expression. Next steps include testing the approach in other models of glomerulonephritis.</p> <p>sanofi-aventis Group markets Avapro irbesartan, a small molecule AGTR1 antagonist, to treat renal disease and neuropathy. Astellas Pharma Inc.'s Telmisartan AGTR1 blocker is under review to treat nephritis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.551 Published online April 2, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Crowley, S. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online March 16, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI34862</p> <p>Contact: Thomas Coffman, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C. e-mail: tcoffman@acpub.duke.edu</p>