

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Pulmonary disease</b>				
Cystic fibrosis (CF)	Cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR)	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified a peptide that could help treat CF. The peptide was designed to prevent the retention of CFTR in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) of airway cells, which typically occurs in CF. In cell lines and human respiratory epithelial tissues, the peptide antagonized mistrafficking of CFTR to the ER and restored functional expression of CFTR on the cell surface. Next steps include developing a peptide with better resistance to proteolysis and improved stability. At least four companies have compounds targeting CFTR in clinical development to treat CF.	Provisional patent application filed in the U.S.; The Hospital for Sick Children is seeking an exclusive licensing partner for further development and commercialization of the therapeutic peptides	Chiaw, P. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online May 28, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2009.04.005 <b>Contact:</b> Christine E. Bear, University of Toronto, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: <a href="mailto:bear@sickkids.ca">bear@sickkids.ca</a>
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