

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	Glucocorticoid receptor (GCCR); IL-6	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies suggest that a class of nonsteroidal GCCR agonists could help treat inflammation. <i>In vitro</i>, two hydroxy trifluoromethyl-alkyl pyrrole pyridine analogs were selective, low nanomolar agonists of GCCR. In a mouse model of lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced acute inflammation, both compounds decreased serum levels of proinflammatory cytokines compared with no treatment. In a mouse model of collagen-induced arthritis, the compounds inhibited disease progression at least as well as prednisolone while inducing smaller increases in body fat and serum insulin triglyceride levels. Next steps could include further preclinical testing of the lead compounds.</p> <p>The generic corticosteroid prednisolone is marketed to treat multiple inflammatory and autoimmune indications. Budesonide MMX, a GCCR agonist consisting of budesonide formulated using the MMX technology from Cosmo Pharmaceuticals S.p.A., Ferring Pharmaceuticals A/S and Santarus Inc., is in Phase III testing to treat ulcerative colitis (UC).</p> <p>GSK870086, an inhaled GCCR agonist from GlaxoSmithKline plc, is in Phase II testing to treat asthma. ZK 245186, a selective GCCR agonist from Bayer AG's Intendis GmbH unit, is in Phase II testing to treat atopic dermatitis.</p> <p>SciBX 3(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1042 Published online Sept. 2, 2010</p>	Patented by Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH; unavailable for licensing	<p>Riether, D. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Aug. 24, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm100751q</p> <p>Contact: Doris Riether, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc., Ridgefield, Conn. e-mail: doris.riether@boehringer-ingelheim.com</p>