This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation; inflammatory disease	p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (p38 MAPK; MAPK14); tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α)	<p>A study in rats identified a pyridazinopyridione-based selective p38 MAPK inhibitor that could help treat inflammation associated with arthritis and other diseases. In a kinase profiling study, the pyridazinopyridione selectively inhibited the p38 α and β isoforms with an IC_{50} value of 4.8 nM. In two rat models of arthritis, the p38 MAPK inhibitor reduced plasma TNF-α levels and paw swelling compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include evaluating the compound in additional animal models of inflammatory diseases.</p> <p>At least seven companies have p38 MAPK inhibitors in Phase II or earlier to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and inflammation.</p> <p>SciBX 3(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1069 Published online Sept. 9, 2010</p>	Multiple patent applications filed covering p38 MAPK inhibitors; licensing status unavailable	<p>Wu, B. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Aug. 16, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm100567y</p> <p>Contact: Bin Wu, Amgen Inc., Thousand Oaks, Calif. e-mail: binw@amgen.com</p>