

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Itch	Toll-like receptor 7 (TLR7)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting <i>TLR7</i> could help treat pruritus. In mice treated with itch-inducing chemicals, <i>Tlr7</i> deficiency led to less scratching than that in wild-type controls. Next steps include evaluating whether pharmacological antagonists of TLR7 can also block itch in animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 3(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1289 Published online Nov. 4, 2010</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Brigham and Women's Hospital</p> <p>Contact: Arlene Parquette, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: aparquette@partners.org</p>	<p>Liu, T. <i>et al. Nat. Neurosci.</i>; published online Oct. 31, 2010; doi:10.1038/nn.2683</p> <p>Contact: Ru-Rong Ji, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: rrji@zeus.bwh.harvard.edu</p>