

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Dermatitis	MAS-related GPR, member X1 (MRGPRX1; SNSR4)	A study in mice and in cell culture suggests that antagonizing MRGPRX1 could help treat itching caused by atopic dermatitis. In mice treated with the topical irritant chloroquine, deletion of the mouse homolog of <i>MRGPRX1</i> reduced scratching compared with that in wild-type controls. In cultured murine neurons, small interfering RNA knockdown of the murine <i>MRGPRX1</i> homolog prevented cellular activation by chloroquine compared with mock treatment. Next steps include identifying the endogenous ligands of MRGPRX1 and screening for small molecule antagonists.	Patent pending; available for licensing	Liu, Q. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online Dec. 10, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.11.034 Contact: Xinzhong Dong, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: xdong2@jhmi.edu
		SciBX 3(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.50 Published online Jan. 14, 2010		