This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Pulmonary disease				
Respiratory distress syndrome (RDS)	Lysophosphatidylcholine acyltransferase 1 (LPCAT1)	<p>A study in mice suggests that increasing LPCAT1 levels could help prevent RDS in infants. Pulmonary surfactants are needed to aid the transition to air breathing in premature and newborn infants. In mice, low <i>Lpcat1</i> mRNA levels led to a greater risk of RDS and perinatal mortality from respiratory failure than normal <i>Lpcat1</i> mRNA levels in littermate controls. In the mice, the <i>Lpcat1</i> mRNA level correlated with Lpcat1 enzyme activity, production of pulmonary surfactant and survival. Next steps could include identifying compounds that increase LPCAT1 expression or activity and evaluating their use in animal RDS models.</p> <p>SciBX 3(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.533 Published online April 29, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Bridges, J.P. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online April 19, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI38061</p> <p>Contact: John M. Shannon, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio e-mail: John.Shannon@cchmc.org</p>