

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Autoimmune; Inflammation	Potassium channel Kv1.3 (KCNA3)	<p><i>In vitro</i> screening identified a new inhibitor of KCNA3 that could help treat inflammatory and autoimmune diseases. KCNA3 is expressed on human T cells. Screens of a combinatorial library based on a scorpion neurotoxin identified mokatoxin-1 as a nanomolar inhibitor of KCNA3. In human T cells, mokatoxin-1 was a more potent inhibitor of cytokine secretion than the parent scorpion neurotoxin. Next steps include testing mokatoxin-1 in animals.</p> <p>Debio 0824, a KCNA3 blocker from Airmid Inc. and Debiopharm S.A., is in preclinical testing for autoimmune indications.</p> <p>SciBX 3(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.65 Published online Jan. 14, 2010</p>	Mokatoxin-1 and discovery approach patented; The University of Chicago is negotiating licensing deals with undisclosed parties	<p>Takacs, Z. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 7, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0910123106</p> <p>Contact: Steve A.N. Goldstein, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: sangoldstein@uchicago.edu</p>