

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Pulmonary disease				
Emphysema	Neutrophil elastase (NE; ELA-2)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that peptide-linked small molecule inhibitors of NE could help treat emphysema. Small molecule NE inhibitors are typically unable to treat emphysema because they are cleared too quickly from the lung. <i>In vitro</i> , a small molecule NE inhibitor conjugated to a 25-amino-acid segment of a human lung peptide prevented NE-induced emphysema compared with the inhibitor alone. Next steps include dosing studies.	Patent applications filed; emphysema work available for licensing	Guarnieri, F. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online May 31, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1001349107 Contact: Frank Guarnieri, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va. e-mail: frankguarnieri@yahoo.com
<p>SciBX 3(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.712 Published online June 10, 2010</p>				