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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Dermatitis	Phospholipase A_2 group IVA cytosolic, calcium-dependent (PLA_2G4A; $cPLA_2$-α)	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest that a class of PLA_2G4A inhibitors could help treat contact dermatitis. *In vitro* testing of carboxyindolyl propanone analogs identified compounds that were low nanomolar inhibitors of PLA_2G4A. In a mouse model of contact dermatitis, a topically delivered PLA_2G4A inhibitor reduced ear edema to levels comparable to those seen in glucocorticoid-treated controls. Ongoing work includes testing additional carboxyindolyl propanone analogs in mouse models of contact dermatitis and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and optimizing the analogs for systemic administration. Morria Biopharmaceuticals plc's MRX6, a topical multifunctional anti-inflammatory drug that inhibits phospholipase A_2 (PLA_2), is in Phase II testing to treat contact dermatitis.	Patented by Merckle GmbH and cair biosciences GmbH; available for licensing **Contact:** Wolfgang Albrecht, cair biosciences GmbH, Tuebingen, Germany e-mail: w.albrecht@cair-biosciences.de	Drews, A. *et al. J. Med. Chem.*; published online June 30, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm1001088 **Contact:** Matthias Lehr, University of Muenster, Muenster, Germany e-mail: lehrm@uni-muenster.de

SciBX 3(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.827
Published online July 15, 2010