

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Inflammation</b>				
Asthma	Interferon regulatory factor 4 (IRF4); IL-9	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that IRF4 inhibition could help treat allergic asthma. In murine and human T helper type 9 (Th9) cells, IRF4 expression correlated with expression of IL-9, which plays a role in asthma pathogenesis. In mouse models of asthma, <i>Irf4</i> knockout animals had fewer signs of the disease than wild-type mice after airway challenge with antigen. Ongoing work includes identifying binding partners of IRF4 and investigating the role that IL-9 produced by other cell types plays in asthma.</p> <p>MEDI-528, an anti-IL-9 antibody from AstraZeneca plc's MedImmune LLC unit and Ligand Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat asthma.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.926</b>  <b>Published online Aug. 5, 2010</b></p>	Unpatented; available for licensing or partnering	<p>Staudt, V. <i>et al. Immunity</i>; published online July 29, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2010.07.014</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Tobias Bopp, University Medical Center of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Mainz, Germany  e-mail: <a href="mailto:boppt@uni-mainz.de">boppt@uni-mainz.de</a></p>