

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Inflammation</b>				
Allergy; inflammation	Prostaglandin D <sub>2</sub> receptor (CRTH2; GPR44; CD294)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified phenoxyacetic acid-based antagonists of CRTH2 that could help treat allergy and inflammation. In receptor-binding and whole-blood assays, the antagonists inhibited CRTH2 with low nanomolar potencies. In mouse models of contact hypersensitivity and allergic asthma, two of the most potent compounds lowered inflammation and lung eosinophil levels compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include further optimization of the compounds. At least nine companies have CRTH2 antagonists in clinical and preclinical testing for inflammatory conditions.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Crosignani, S. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Sept. 15, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm200866y <b>Contact:</b> Stefano Crosignani, Merck Serono S.A., Geneva, Switzerland e-mail: <a href="mailto:stefano.crosignani@merckserono.net">stefano.crosignani@merckserono.net</a>
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