

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Pulmonary disease</b>				
Pulmonary fibrosis	Hyaluronan synthase 2 (HAS2)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting HAS2 could help treat idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). In a mouse lung injury model of IPF, overexpression of Has2 increased fibrosis and fibroblast invasion of the pulmonary extracellular matrix compared with wild-type Has2 expression. In cell culture, primary lung fibroblasts from human IPF patients showed greater matrix invasion than cells from healthy controls. Additionally, small interfering RNA against HAS2 blocked the invasiveness, whereas control siRNA did not. Next steps include identifying inhibitors of HAS2.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Li, Y. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i> ; published online June 27, 2011; doi:10.1084/jem.20102510 <b>Contact:</b> Paul W. Noble, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C. e-mail: <a href="mailto:paul.noble@duke.edu">paul.noble@duke.edu</a>
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