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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hepatic disease				
Drug-induced liver toxicity (DILI)	Gap junction protein β1, 32 kDa (GJB1; CX32; connexin-32)	Mouse studies identified a small molecule inhibitor of CX32 that could help treat DILI. Cx32 knockout mice had less liver damage than wild-type mice following challenge with the hepatotoxin thioacetamide. In mouse models of thioacetamide- and acetaminophen-induced liver toxicity, the small molecule CX32 inhibitor 2-aminoethoxydipenyl borate (2APB) decreased liver damage and increased survival compared with vehicle control. Next steps by Heprotech Inc. include studying the potential off-target effects of inhibiting CX32. *SciBX* 5(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.125 Published online Feb. 2, 2012	Findings patented; licensed to Heprotech, which was cofounded by the corresponding author	Patel, S.J. *et al. Nat. Biotechnol.*; published online Jan. 15, 2012; doi:10.1038/nbt.2089 **Contact:** Martin L. Yarmush, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: ireis@sbi.org