

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Inflammation; sepsis	Rhomboid 5 homolog 2 (RHBDF2; iRhom2)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest inhibiting iRhom2 could help treat inflammatory and autoimmune diseases. In mice or bone marrow-derived macrophages treated with lipopolysaccharide (LPS), <i>iRhom2</i> knockout decreased tumor necrosis factor (TNF) induction compared with that seen in wild-type mice or macrophages. In a mouse model of septic shock, <i>iRhom2</i> knockout mice had less TNF-α elevation and liver damage and greater survival than wild-type mice. Next steps could include screening for iRhom2 inhibitors.</p> <p>SciBX 5(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.136 Published online Feb. 2, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status for both studies unavailable	<p>Adrain, C. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Jan. 13, 2012; doi:10.1126/science.1214400 Contact: Matthew Freeman, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: MF1@mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk Contact: Markus Zettl, same affiliation as above e-mail: zettl.markus@googlemail.com</p> <p>McIlwain, D.R. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Jan. 13, 2012; doi:10.1126/science.1214448 Contact: Tak W. Mak, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: tmak@uhnresearch.ca Contact: David R. McIlwain, same affiliation as above e-mail: dmcilwai@uhnresearch.ca</p>