

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Asthma	<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> asperamide B	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting asperamide B could help treat asthma triggered by <i>Aspergillus</i> . In mice, <i>A. fumigatus</i> activated pulmonary invariant NK T (iNKT) cells and induced airway hyperresponsiveness, which was prevented by Cd1d knockout. In cocultures of bone marrow-derived cells and iNKT cells, asperamide B purified from <i>A. fumigatus</i> directly activated iNKT cells. Next steps include additional studies to understand how <i>Aspergillus</i> causes severe asthma.	Provisional patent application filed; available for licensing	Albacker, L.A. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online Sept. 1, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3321 Contact: Dale T. Umetsu, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: dale.umetsu@childrens.harvard.edu
<p>SciBX 6(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1031 Published online Sept. 26, 2013</p>				