This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammatory disease	p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (p38 MAPK; MAPK14); tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α)	*In vitro* studies identified dibenzoxepinone-based p38 MAPK inhibitors that could help treat inflammatory diseases. In an *in vitro* assay, the most potent member of a compound series inhibited p38 MAPK with an IC_{50} of 1.6 nM. In human whole blood, the same compound inhibited TNF-α release with an IC_{50} of 125 nM. Next steps could include evaluating the lead inhibitor in animal models of inflammatory disease. At least four companies have p38 MAPK inhibitors in Phase II testing or earlier to treat various autoimmune or inflammatory diseases.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Baur, B. *et al. J. Med. Chem.*; published online Oct. 17, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm401276h **Contact:** Stefan A. Laufer, Eberhard Karls University of Tuebingen, Tuebingen, Germany e-mail: stefan.laufer@uni-tuebingen.de

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