

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Asthma	Serine palmitoyltransferase (SPT)	<p>Mouse studies suggest increasing SPT-mediated sphingolipid synthesis could help treat nonallergic asthma. SPT is a key enzyme that mediates sphingolipid synthesis. In a mouse model for asthma, myriocin inhibited Spt-mediated sphingolipid synthesis and increased airway resistance compared with vehicle. In mice, a deficiency in <i>Spt</i> increased airway resistance and hyperreactivity after asthma induction compared with no deficiency. Next steps could include designing therapies based on sphingolipid supplementation and evaluating them in preclinical models of nonallergic asthma.</p> <p>SciBX 6(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.629 Published online June 27, 2013</p>	Patented by Weill Cornell Medical College; available for licensing	<p>Worgall, T.S. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online May 22, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3005765 Contact: Stefan Worgall, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y. e-mail: stw2006@med.cornell.edu</p>