

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Gastrointestinal disease				
Colitis	Free fatty acid receptor 2 (FFAR2; GPR43)	<p>Mouse studies suggest short-chain fatty acid supplementation could be useful for treating colitis and other inflammation-associated colon diseases. Colonic T_{reg} cells have previously been shown to control intestinal inflammation by limiting effector T cell proliferation. In germ-free mice, short-chain fatty acid supplementation increased the number of colonic T_{reg} cells compared with no supplementation. In a T cell transfer mouse model for colitis, supplementation with the FFAR2 agonist propionate or a mixture of short-chain fatty acids decreased disease severity and weight loss compared with no supplementation. Next steps could include screening for and evaluating specific FFAR2 agonists in mouse colitis models.</p> <p>SciBX 6(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.794 Published online Aug. 8, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Smith, P.M. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online July 4, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1241165 Contact: Wendy S. Garrett, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass. e-mail: wgarrett@hsph.harvard.edu</p>