This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Gastrointestinal disease				
Pancreatitis	Calcium release- activated calcium channel (CRAC)	<p>Cell culture studies suggest antagonizing CRAC could help treat acute pancreatitis. In a pancreatic acinar cell model of acute pancreatitis, a discontinued small molecule CRAC inhibitor research reagent from GlaxoSmithKline plc prevented excess calcium influx and necrosis. Next steps include genetic and pharmacological studies in mice to validate CRAC inhibition in a model of alcohol-induced pancreatitis.</p> <p>Synta Pharmaceuticals Corp. and CalciMedica Inc. each have CRAC inhibitors in preclinical development for psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis (RA), inflammatory bowel disease and other autoimmune and inflammatory indications.</p> <p>SciBX 6(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.828 Published online Aug. 15, 2013</p>	Not patented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Gerasimenko, J.V. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 22, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1300910110</p> <p>Contact: Ole H. Petersen, Cardiff University, Cardiff, U.K. e-mail: petersenoh@cardiff.ac.uk</p> <p>Contact: Oleg V. Gerasimenko, same affiliation as above e-mail: gerasimenkoov@cardiff.ac.uk</p> <p>Contact: Pawel E. Ferdek, same affiliation as above e-mail: ferdekpe@cardiff.ac.uk</p>