

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)	IL-33 (NF-HEV)	<p>Mouse and human <i>ex vivo</i> studies suggest inhibiting IL-33 could help treat COPD. In a mouse model of COPD, IL-33 levels were higher in lung progenitor cells than in cells from healthy mice. In the same model, knockout of an essential IL-33 receptor subunit or treatment with a neutralizing antibody targeting that subunit both decreased disease severity compared with no knockout or with control IgG treatment. In lung tissue samples from patients with COPD, IL-33 levels were higher in lung progenitor cells than in samples from individuals without COPD. Next steps include developing inhibitors against IL-33 and its receptor.</p> <p>SciBX 6(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.999 Published online Sept. 19, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Byers, D.E. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Aug. 15, 2013; doi:10.1172/JCI65570 Contact: Michael J. Holtzman, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: holtzmanm@wustl.edu</p>