

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Allergy; asthma	<i>Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus</i> peptidase 1 (DERP1)	<i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest inhibiting the enzymatic activity of house dust mite (HDM) allergens could help treat allergic asthma. Structural modeling and chemical synthesis identified a series of pyruvamide analogs that reversibly inhibited the peptidase activity of HDM allergen DERP1. In rats sensitized to HDM allergens, oral pretreatment with the lead compound led to decreased eosinophil levels in lungs following antigen challenge compared with vehicle pretreatment. Next steps include further mechanistic and animal model studies to support clinical development.	Patented; unavailable for licensing	Newton, G.K. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Nov. 3, 2014; doi:10.1021/jm501102h Contact: Clive Robinson, Domainex Ltd., Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: c.robinson@sgul.ac.uk
<i>SciBX</i> 7(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1414 Published online Dec. 18, 2014				