

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Pulmonary disease				
Pulmonary fibrosis	Protein kinase A (PKA)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest noscapine could help treat pulmonary fibrosis. In human lung fibroblasts, noscapine inhibited transforming growth factor-β (TGFB; TGFβ)-induced myofibroblast differentiation and activated antifibrotic PKA, whereas adenoviral-mediated expression of a PKA inhibitor prevented the effects on differentiation. In a mouse model of chemically induced pulmonary fibrosis, noscapine decreased fibrosis compared with vehicle control.</p> <p>Noscapine is a generic benzyloquinoline alkaloid available over the counter in some countries in anticough products.</p> <p>In 2009, KineMed Inc. filed a patent covering the use of the compound to treat pulmonary fibrosis; its development status is unavailable.</p> <p>SciBX 7(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.266 Published online March 6, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Kach, J. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 3, 2014; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.546812 Contact: Nickolai O. Dulin, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: ndulin@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu</p>