This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	PYD and CARD domain containing (PYCARD; ASC)	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest depleting extracellular ASC particles could help treat inflammatory diseases. In macrophages, NLR family pyrin domain containing 3 (NLRP3; NALP3; CIAS1) inflammasome activation caused release of ASC specks into the supernatant, which form oligomers, activate caspase-1 (CASP1) and get engulfed by macrophages to propagate inflammasome signaling. In mice, injection of labeled ASC specks into the ear induced neutrophil recruitment, and i.p. injection induced sterile peritonitis. Serum samples from patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD) and pneumonia contained ASC specks, whereas samples from healthy subjects did not. Next steps could include developing methods for testing the effects of ASC particle depletion in models of inflammation. *SciBX* 7(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.898 Published online Aug. 7, 2014	Patent and licensing status unavailable for findings from both studies	Baroja-Mazo, A. *et al. Nat. Immunol.*; published online June 22, 2014; doi:10.1038/ni.2919 **Contact:** Pablo Pelegrin, University Hospital Virgen Arrixaca, Murcia, Spain e-mail: pablo.pelegrin@ffis.es Franklin, B.S *et al. Nat. Immunol.*; published online June 22, 2014; doi:10.1038/ni.2913 **Contact:** Eicke Latz, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany e-mail: eicke.latz@uni-bonn.de