

THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Allergy; shock	IL-33 (NF-HEV)	Studies in humans and in mice suggest that inhibiting IL-33 could help treat or prevent anaphylactic shock. In atopic patients with anaphylaxis or dermatitis, IL-33 levels were significantly higher than in healthy or atopic controls (p <0.01). In a mouse model of anaphylactic shock, an anti-Il-33 antibody or Il-33 decoy receptor prevented Il-33- mediated drops in body temperature, a sign of anaphylaxis. The antibody and decoy receptor also reduced histamine levels and the expression of proinflammatory cytokines compared with saline treatment. Next steps include identifying the optimal dose of the human-recombinant soluble decoy IL-33 receptor, called ST2, and evaluating its half-life and immunogenicity.	Patent pending covering soluble ST2 (or ST2L), which may be used in cell separation or identification, drug screening and treating infections, inflammation and allergies; available for licensing from the University of Glasgow	Pushparaj, P.N. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad.</i> <i>Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 1, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0901206106 Contact: Alirio J. Melendez, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, U.K. e-mail: a.melendez-romero@clinmed.gla.ac.uk Contact: Foo Y. Liew, same affiliation as above e-mail: f.y.liew@clinmed.gla.ac.uk

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