

'TIMely' intervention for asthma

July 12 2010

TIM1 has been identified as a susceptibility gene for asthma. New research in mice now suggests that targeting TIM-1 protein might have therapeutic benefit in treating this increasingly prevalent condition.

Asthma can be a severely debilitating disease. Its increasing prevalence and the fact that most treatments do not control severe asthma well has stimulated intensive research into genetic susceptibility to asthma in the hope that the information gleaned will lead to new therapeutics.

One gene identified as a asthma susceptibility gene is TIM1 and now, a team of researchers, led by Paul Rennert, at Biogen Idec Inc., Cambridge, has generated data in a humanized mouse model of asthma that suggest that targeting TIM-1 [protein](#) might have therapeutic benefit in the treatment of patients with asthma.

Specifically, the team found that an antibody that bound to a defined region of the TIM-1 protein (a cleft formed within the IgV domain) had therapeutic activity in the humanized [mouse model](#) of experimental [asthma](#), ameliorating inflammation and airway hyperresponsiveness.

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