WISP-1, a novel target for treatment of pulmonary fibrosis

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is characterised by formation of fibroblast foci and deposition of extracellular matrix (ECM) in the lung interstitium. This results in distorted lung architecture, impaired gas exchange and reduced respiratory function. Impaired crosstalk between alveolar and extracellular compartments leads to ECM deposition in IPF.

This study investigated the gene regulatory networks behind AT11 cell dysfunction in IPF. Genetic analyses highlighted WNT-inducible signalling protein-1 (WISP-1) as a key mediator of AT11 cell dysfunction in IPF. WISP-1 is a novel target for treatment of pulmonary fibrosis.

Currently available treatment options for IPF are limited. This study puts forward WISP-1 as a novel potential therapeutic target in IPF. Whether or not the findings in mouse models will translate to humans remains to be seen.

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