

## Lilly takes a chance on Rip kinase inhibition



[Madeleine Armstrong](#)

Lilly has become the latest group to make a bet on Rip kinase inhibitors for autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, today licensing Rigel's portfolio for \$125m up front. The deal covers Rigel's phase II-ready asset R552, as well as preclinical brain-penetrating Rip1 kinase inhibitors. However, the track record of other companies targeting this mechanism does not bode well. Glaxosmithkline has abandoned two projects, the Rip1-targeting GSK3145095, which [had been in development for solid tumours](#), and the Rip2 kinase inhibitor GSK2983559, [whose phase I study in inflammatory bowel disease was terminated owing to toxicology findings](#). Glaxo still has one shot left here with GSK2982772, in phase I for psoriasis. The other main contenders in Rip kinase inhibition are Denali and Sanofi, which are working together on the brain-penetrating project DNL788 and the peripherally acting DNL758; however, the groups discontinued their lead asset, DNL747, last June [after having trouble finding a therapeutic window](#). Amgen also gained a Rip1 kinase inhibitor through its [2019 purchase of Nuevolution](#), although this does not appear to have progressed into the clinic.

### Rip1 kinase inhibitors in clinical development

Project	Company	Note
R552	Rigel Pharmaceuticals/ Lilly	"Ph2 ready" for autoimmune diseases
GSK2982772	Glaxosmithkline	<a href="#">Ph1 in psoriasis</a> , completes Sep 2021
DNL788/SAR443820	Denali Therapeutics/ Sanofi	Ph1 healthy volunteer data due H2 2021, intended for ALS, Alzheimer's & MS
DNL758/SAR443122	Denali Therapeutics/ Sanofi	<a href="#">Ph1 in Covid-19</a> ; ph2 in cutaneous lupus erythematosus to start early 2021

Source: [EvaluatePharma](#) & [clinicaltrials.gov](#).

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