This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	Cyclooxygenase (PTGS; COX)	A study in cell culture suggests that COX inhibitors may be useful as adjuncts to CMV therapies. In CMV-infected primary human foreskin fibroblasts, the COX inhibitors tolfenamic acid and indomethacin produced dose-dependent decreases in the numbers of CMV progeny and infected fibroblasts compared with what was seen in dimethyl sulfoxide–treated controls. A cell infectivity assay suggested that the COX inhibitors blocked direct cell-to-cell viral infection without blocking infection from cell-free virus. The COX inhibitors blocked viral infection *in vitro* at doses that are achievable in human plasma, unlike previous *in vitro* studies of COX inhibitors. Next steps include evaluating COX inhibitors and other NSAIDs in animal models of CMV infection. Multiple COX inhibitors are marketed to treat inflammation. ***SciBX*** **1(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1102** **Published online Dec. 18, 2008**	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Schröer, J. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Nov. 24, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0810740105 **Contact:** Thomas Shenk, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. e-mail: tshenk@princeton.edu