This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	HCV non-structural protein 5B (NS5B)	SAR studies identified a benzodiazepine analog as an allosteric inhibitor of HCV NS5B that could help treat HCV. <i>In vitro</i> , optimization of a previous 1,5-benzodiazepine NS5B inhibitor led to a more potent sulfone-based analog with a K_d of 0.79 nM. In enzymatic assays, the inhibitor had about 20-fold greater affinity for NS5B than for the parent compound. Next steps could include characterization of the new class of inhibitors in HCV replicon assays. At least four companies have compounds targeting HCV NS5B in clinical and preclinical testing to treat HCV.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Vandyck, K. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online June 9, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm9005548 Contact: Pierre Raboisson, Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development, Raritan, N.J. e-mail: praboisson@its.jnj.com or pierreraoisson@aol.com
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