This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
West Nile virus	West Nile virus non-structural protein 3 protease (WNV NS3); West Nile virus non-structural cofactor 2B (WNV NS2B)	<p><i>In silico</i> and <i>in vitro</i> studies identified inhibitors of the West Nile virus NS3-NS2B complex that could help treat the infection. Computational modeling predicted a structural conformation of the WNV NS3-NS2B interaction and five potential inhibitors. <i>In vitro</i>, two inhibitors had low micromolar activity. Next steps include improving the binding affinity of the inhibitors to the low nanomolar range using chemical optimization.</p> <p>SciBX 2(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1083 Published online July 16, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status unavailable	<p>Ekonomiuk, D. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online July 1, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900448m</p> <p>Contact: Amedeo Caflisch, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland e-mail: caflisch@bioc.uzh.ch</p> <p>Contact: Danzhi Huang, same affiliation as above e-mail: dhuang@bioc.uzh.ch</p>