This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Sialic acid	<p>A study in cell culture identified alkylated peptide assemblies that could help treat influenza infection. <i>In vitro</i>, peptides bound cell surface sialic acid-containing glycoconjugates. In cell culture, one of the peptides inhibited influenza infection with an IC_{50} value of 3.2 μM. Fluorescence imaging studies showed that the peptide prevented fluorescently labeled viral particles from binding to the cells. Next steps could include more studies to evaluate the relationship between inhibitory activity and binding properties of the peptides.</p> <p>SciBX 2(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1108 Published online July 23, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Matsubara, T. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online June 26, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801570y</p> <p>Contact: Toshinori Sato, Keio University, Yokohama, Japan e-mail: sato@bio.keio.ac.jp</p>