This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	DEAD box polypeptide 6 (DDX6; RCK; p54); LSM1 homolog, U6 small nuclear RNA associated (LSM1); protein associated with topoisomerase II homolog 1 (PATL1)	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that inhibiting viral Rck, Lsm1 or Patl1 proteins could be useful for treating HCV infection. Rck, Lsm1 and Patl1 are present in RNA viruses. <i>In vitro</i>, small interfering RNA-mediated knockdown of Rck, Lsm1 and Patl1 reduced protein levels by 80%–85% compared with treatment with a nontargeting siRNA. In human hepatocytes transfected with HCV RNA, siRNA-mediated knockdown of Rck, Lsm1 or Patl1 reduced viral titers by 50-, 10- and 10-fold, respectively, compared with what was seen using a nontargeting siRNA. Next steps include evaluating Rck, Lsm1 and Patl1 silencing in animal models of viral infection.</p> <p>SciBX 2(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1184 Published online Aug. 6, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Scheller, N. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 20, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0906413106</p> <p>Contact: Juana Díez, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: juana.diez@upf.edu</p>