This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Dengue fever	Platelet activating factor receptor (PTAFR; PAFR)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that antagonizing PAFR could help prevent severe dengue infection. In dengue-infected mice, <i>PAFR</i> knockout animals had less thrombocytopenia and vascular leakage and delayed lethality compared with dengue-infected wild-type mice. In wild-type mice, a PAFR antagonist prevented clinical symptoms of dengue infection and reduced viral load compared with vehicle. Next steps include studying PAFR antagonism in additional preclinical models of dengue infection.</p> <p>At least seven companies have therapeutics in clinical and preclinical testing to treat dengue fever.</p> <p>SciBX 2(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1217 Published online Aug. 13, 2009</p>	Patent application filed covering use of PAFR antagonists to treat acute dengue infection; available for licensing	<p>Souza, D. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 27, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0906467106</p> <p>Contact: Mauro M. Teixeira, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil e-mail: mmtex@icb.ufmg.br</p>