This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Human herpesvirus	Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus protease (KSHV Pr; HH8 Pr); cytomegalovirus protease (CMV Pr; HH5 Pr)	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified small molecules that inhibit KSHV Pr and could help treat Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus. A screen identified small molecules that were then optimized to inhibit the dimerization of KSHV Pr. The inhibitors also showed activity against CMV Pr, suggesting broad inhibitory activity against multiple proteases. Next steps include improving the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of the compounds. SciBX 2(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1218 Published online Aug. 13, 2009	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Shahian, T. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online July 26, 2009; doi:10.1038/nchembio.192 Contact: Charles S. Craik, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: craik@cgl.ucsf.edu