This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	HCV NS3 protease	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rat studies identified macrocyclic HCV NS3 protease inhibitors that could help treat HCV. <i>In vitro</i>, the most optimized isoindoline analog inhibited NS3 protease. The compound had good pharmacokinetics in mice. Next steps include testing the lead compound in animal models of HCV.</p> <p>SciBX 2(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1667 Published online Nov. 19, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Di Francesco, M. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Oct. 26, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900524b</p> <p>Contact: M. Emilia Di Francesco, Merck Research Laboratories, West Point, Pa. e-mail: mariaemilia_difrancesco@merck.com</p>