This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	HCV nonstructural protein 3 (NS3)	<p>SAR studies identified inhibitors of NS3 that could help treat HCV. <i>Tert</i>-leucinol-derived cyclic imides were used as capping groups that increased the potency and selectivity of the parent compound, boceprevir. One derivative showed 12-fold better potency than previous NS3 inhibitors in a cell-based HCV replicon assay. That derivative also had better pharmacokinetics than first-generation inhibitors in rats and dogs. Next steps include small- and large-animal safety and toxicity studies.</p> <p>Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s telaprevir (VX-950) and Schering-Plough Corp.'s boceprevir are each in Phase III testing to treat HCV.</p> <p>SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.280 Published online Feb. 19, 2009</p>	Patent application filed worldwide and granted in the U.S.; unavailable for licensing	<p>Chen, K. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 5, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801238q</p> <p>Contact: Kevin X. Chen, Schering-Plough Research Institute, Kenilworth, N.J. e-mail: kevin.chen@spcorp.com</p>