This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	HCV nonstructural protein 5B (NS5B)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that fluorinated analogs of 4'-azidocytidine could help treat HCV infection. HCV replication assays identified a mono-fluorinated analog that inhibited NS5B at concentrations of 24 nM, which is 50-fold more potent than nonfluorinated 4'-azidocytidine. Cell viability and cell proliferation studies showed that the analogs had no significant toxic effects. Next steps include using SAR studies of the derivatives to help design and optimize additional NS5B inhibitors.</p> <p>R1626, a prodrug of nucleoside analog R1479 that inhibits NS5B, from Roche, is in Phase II testing to treat HCV.</p> <p>SciBX 2(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.625 Published online April 16, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Smith, D. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 2, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801595c</p> <p>Contact: Mark Smith, Roche Palo Alto LLC, Palo Alto, Calif. e-mail: Mark.Smith@Roche.com</p>