This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Viral infection	IL-21	<p>Studies in mice suggest that increasing IL-21 levels could help treat chronic viral infections. Mice infected with lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) had decreases in IL-21-induced CD8⁺ T cell cytokine production compared with that seen in wild-type mice, resulting in an inability to resolve the infection. Next steps could include testing whether administering IL-21 during the chronic phase of infection can boost CD8⁺ T cell response and help treat the infection.</p> <p>ZymoGenetics Inc. and Novo Nordisk A/S have a recombinant IL-21 in Phase I and II testing for various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.795 Published online May 14, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Elsaesser, H. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online May 7, 2009; doi:10.1126/science.1174182</p> <p>Contact: David Brooks, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: dbrooks@em.ucla.edu</p>