This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	HCV non-structural protein 5B (NS5B)	<p>Studies <i>in vitro</i> and in rats identified inhibitors of HCV NS5B RNA-dependent RNA polymerase that could help treat HCV. <i>In vitro</i>, a series of tetracyclic benzothiadiazines with a benzylamino substituent on the B-ring inhibited HCV genotype 1a and 1b RNA polymerases with low nanomolar activity. In rats, one of the best inhibitors had good pharmacokinetics, tissue distribution and oral bioavailability. Next steps could include testing the lead compounds in animal models of HCV.</p> <p>Cx-3773, an NS5B inhibitor from Cylene Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase II testing for HCV. Anadys Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s NS5B polymerase inhibitor, ANA598, is in Phase I testing for HCV. Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s VCH-222 NS5B inhibitor is in Phase I testing to treat HCV.</p> <p>SciBX 2(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.831 Published online May 21, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Randolph, J. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 29, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801485z</p> <p>Contact: John T. Randolph, Abbott Laboratories, Abbott Park, Ill. e-mail: john.randolph@abbott.com</p>