This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Chikungunya virus (CHIKV)	Various	<p>A study in mice and in monkeys suggests that CHIKV-like particles could be used to vaccinate against CHIKV, a mosquito-borne virus that causes severe, long-term arthritis-like symptoms. Mice and monkeys immunized with recombinant CHIKV-like particles developed virus-neutralizing antibodies compared with animals given mock treatment. Vaccinated monkeys challenged with live virus were protected from viremia compared with mock-immunized monkeys. Next steps could include clinical testing of the virus-like particles and development of virus-like particle vaccines for related pathogens including equine encephalitis viruses, O'nyon-nyong virus and Ross River virus.</p> <p>SciBX 3(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.311 Published online March 11, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Akahata, W. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 28, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2105</p> <p>Contact: Gary Nabel, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: gnabel@nih.gov</p>