This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	HCV NS3 protease	<p><i>In vitro</i>, rat and monkey studies identified second-generation HCV NS3 protease inhibitors that could help treat HCV infection. <i>In vitro</i>, SAR studies identified boceprevir derivatives that had over 10-fold better binding and inhibitory potencies than the parent compound. In rats and monkeys, oral delivery of the derivatives led to higher plasma levels of the compounds than those seen for boceprevir. Next steps include testing the inhibitors in HCV models.</p> <p>Merck & Co. Inc.'s narlaprevir and boceprevir are HCV NS3 protease inhibitors in Phase II and Phase III testing, respectively, to treat HCV.</p> <p>SciBX 3(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.468 Published online April 15, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Velazquez, F. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 19, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm9016027</p> <p>Contact: Francisco Velazquez, Merck Research Laboratories, Kenilworth, N.J. e-mail: francisco.velazquez@spcorp.com</p>