This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Interferon-induced transmembrane protein (IFITM)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that upregulating IFITM could help inhibit influenza A H1N1 virus, West Nile virus and Dengue fever virus. An <i>in vitro</i> screen identified over 120 genes, including <i>IFITM3</i>, that encoded factors required for viral infection. <i>In vitro</i>, overexpression of <i>IFITM1</i>, <i>IFITM2</i> or <i>IFITM3</i> inhibited influenza A, West Nile and Dengue fever infection. Next steps include developing transgenic animals to determine whether increasing levels of IFITM3 is protective.</p> <p>SciBX 3(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.87 Published online Jan. 21, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Brass, A. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Dec. 17, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.12.017 Contact: Stephen Elledge, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: selledge@genetics.med.harvard.edu Contact: Abraham L. Brass, same affiliation as above e-mail: abrass@partners.org Contact: Michael Farzan, same affiliation as above e-mail: farzan@hms.harvard.edu</p>