This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Influenza A virus matrix protein M2 (M2)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that virus-like particles containing the influenza M2 antigen could be useful for generating broad immunity against the virus. In mice, immunization with an inactivated influenza A virus plus M2 virus-like particles increased both M2-specific antibody responses and protection against multiple influenza A strains compared with immunization using inactivated virus alone. Next steps include improving the immunogenicity of the M2 virus-like particles.</p> <p>Theraclone Sciences Inc.'s human anti-M2e antibodies are in preclinical testing to treat influenza. M2e is a conserved, extracellular domain of M2.</p> <p>VaxInnate Corp.'s M2e, a vaccine targeting M2e, is in Phase I testing for influenza.</p> <p>SciBX 4(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.107 Published online Jan. 27, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Song, J.-M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 27, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1012199108</p> <p>Contact: Sang-Moo Kang, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: skang2@emory.edu</p> <p>Contact: Richard W. Compans, same affiliation as above e-mail: rcompan@emory.edu</p>