This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Influenza A virus neuraminidase (NA)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified two phosphonate-based compounds that could help treat drug-resistant influenza virus infections. In a panel of NAs from human and avian influenza strains, including those resistant to Tamiflu oseltamivir, the phosphonate compounds showed more effective inhibition than Relenza zanamivir. Next steps include developing improved formulations of the compounds.</p> <p>Biota Holdings Ltd. and GlaxoSmithKline plc market Relenza to treat and prevent influenza. Gilead Sciences Inc. and Roche market Tamiflu to treat and prevent influenza.</p> <p>At least two other companies market NA inhibitors to treat influenza.</p> <p>SciBX 4(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1147 Published online Oct. 20, 2011</p>	Patent application filed in the U.S., Europe and Japan; licensed to an undisclosed U.S./Taiwan biotechnology company for development against Tamiflu-resistant influenza	<p>Shie, J.-J. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online Sept. 26, 2011; doi:10.1021/ja207892q</p> <p>Contact: Chi-Huey Wong, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan e-mail: chwong@gate.sinica.edu.tw</p> <p>Contact: Jim-Min Fang, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan e-mail: jmfang@ntu.edu.tw</p>