This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Viral infection	Prostaglandin D ₂ (PGD ₂); PGD ₂ receptor subtype DP1	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting PGD₂ could help treat viral infections in aged populations. In aged mice, compared with in young mice, influenza A virus or SARS virus stimulated a weaker CD8⁺ T cell immune response, and the strength of the response was inversely correlated with PGD₂ levels. In aged mice infected with SARS virus, an inhibitor of the PGD₂ receptor DP1 improved survival compared with vehicle control. Next steps include measuring PGD₂ levels in infected and uninfected human lung samples. TS-022, a small molecule DP1 inhibitor from Taisho Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., is in Phase II testing to treat dermatitis.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 4(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1355 Published online Dec. 15, 2011</p>	Patent application about to be filed; available for licensing	<p>Zhao, J. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Nov. 21, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI59777 Contact: Stanley Perlman, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: stanley-perlman@uiowa.edu</p>