This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Viral infection	Sterol pathway	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest that statins and other antagonists of sterol biosynthesis could improve the efficacy of antivirals. In mouse cytomegalovirus (mCMV)-infected cell culture, the generic statin simvastatin decreased viral replication compared with vehicle control. In mice challenged with mCMV, pretreatment with simvastatin led to less viral replication than pretreatment with vehicle controls. Ongoing studies are evaluating a range of sterol pathway-targeting inhibitors to increase protection against infection.</p> <p>Simvastatin is marketed to treat several metabolic and cardiovascular indications.</p> <p>Samaritan Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s SP-01A, an adjunct, oral viral-entry inhibitor that targets the sterol biosynthetic enzyme HMG-CoA reductase, is in Phase II/III testing for HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>SciBX 4(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.340 Published online March 24, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Blanc, M. <i>et al. PLoS Biol.</i>; published online March 8, 2011; doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000598 Contact: Peter Ghazal, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, U.K. e-mail: p.ghazal@ed.ac.uk</p>