This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	NLR family member X1 (NLRX1)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest activating NLRX1 could help treat influenza. In human cell culture, small hairpin RNA-mediated NLRX1 knockdown increased inflammatory cytokine production, including IL-6, in response to H1N1 influenza virus compared with that seen using shRNA control. In <i>Nlrp1</i> ^{-/-} mice, compared with wild-type mice, airway challenge with influenza virus increased both IL-6 production, leading to lung inflammation and morbidity, and viral clearance. Next steps could include increasing NLRX1 expression and adding antiviral treatment in animal models of infection.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Allen, I.C. <i>et al. Immunity</i> ; published online June 24, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2011.03.026 Contact: Jenny P.Y. Ting, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: jenny_ting@med.unc.edu
SciBX 4(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.766				
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