This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Viral infection	Calcium channel voltage-dependent $\alpha 2/\delta$ subunit 2 (CACNA2D2)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest voltage-gated calcium channel inhibitors could help treat or prevent New World hemorrhagic fever triggered by arenaviruses. In human osteosarcoma cells, a small interfering RNA screen identified CACNA2D2 and other calcium channel subunits as host factors that contribute to infection by the Junin arenavirus. In mouse macrophages, knockout of <i>Cacna2d2</i> or inhibition of voltage-gated calcium channels prevented viral entry and infection. In mice, a generic CACNA2D2 inhibitor prevented systemic or intracranial infection and decreased viral titers compared with vehicle. Next steps include testing calcium channel inhibitors in additional animal models of arenavirus infection.	Findings currently unpatented; available for licensing	Lavanya, M. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online Sept. 25, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3006827 Contact: Susan R. Ross, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: rosss@mail.med.upenn.edu
SciBX 6(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1193 Published online Oct. 31, 2013				