This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection; herpes simplex virus (HSV)	Interferon- ϵ (IFNE; IFN ϵ)	<p>Mouse studies suggest increasing IFNE might help prevent sexually transmitted infections. In mouse models for HSV infection, IFNE-deficient mice had severe genital lesions and greater virus levels in vaginal tissues, spinal cord and brain stem than wild-type mice. In mouse models for <i>Chlamydia muridarum</i> infection, IFNE-deficient mice had higher vaginal and uterine bacteria levels than wild-type mice. In the <i>Chlamydia</i> infection mouse model, intravaginal pretreatment with IFNE six hours before challenge protected against bacterial infection. Next steps could include testing the protective effects of IFNE treatment in additional models for sexually transmitted infections.</p> <p>SciBX 6(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.267 Published online March 21, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Fung, K.Y. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online March 1, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1233321 Contact: Paul J. Hertzog, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia e-mail: paul.hertzog@monash.edu</p>