This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza	Protectin D1 (PD1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest PD1 could help treat influenza. In normal lung epithelial cells infected with influenza A virus, a lipid screen identified the lipid mediator PD1 as a suppressor of influenza replication. In mice, i.v. treatment with PD1 48 hours after infection increased survival compared with vehicle treatment. In the mouse model, PD1 plus the neuraminidase (NEU1; SIAL1) inhibitor peramivir led to 100% survival. Next steps could include testing PD1 in different animal models of influenza virus infection.</p> <p>BioCryst Pharmaceuticals Inc. discontinued a Phase III trial of peramivir in November 2012 for futility following an interim analysis.</p> <p>SciBX 6(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.268 Published online March 21, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Morita, M. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online March 7, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2013.02.027 Contact: Yumiko Imai, Akita University, Akita, Japan e-mail: imai@med.akita-u.ac.jp</p>