This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza	Influenza A virus matrix protein 2 (M2)	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified M2 inhibitors that could help treat amantadine-resistant influenza. The S31N M2 mutation in the influenza virus results in resistance to first-generation M2 inhibitors, including amantadine. In <i>Xenopus laevis</i> oocytes expressing the S31N M2 mutant protein, amantadine derivatives with a CH ₂ -heteroaryl group conjugated to the drug's amine group inhibited the M2 proton channel. In a cellular assay using an influenza virus expressing the S31N mutant, derivatives of the new M2 inhibitor blocked viral replication. Next steps include testing in animals.	Patent application filed; licensed to InfluxMedix Inc.; available for licensing	Wang, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Jan. 9, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1216526110 Contact: William F. DeGrado, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: william.degrado@ucsf.edu Contact: Yibing Wu, same affiliation as above e-mail: yibing.wu@ucsf.edu
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