This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Viral hemorrhagic fever	Marburg virus nucleoprotein	<p>Nonhuman primate studies suggest lipid nanoparticle-encapsulated siRNA targeting a conserved sequence region of Marburg virus nucleoprotein could be used to treat Marburg virus infection. In a nonhuman primate model of the Angola strain of Marburg virus, rhesus macaques showed virus in the blood and clinical signs of infection. In the model, 16 rhesus macaques given the nanoparticle therapeutic up to 72 hours after infection survived and showed less severe clinical symptoms and lower levels of virus in blood and tissue than 7 untreated rhesus macaques that died from infection. Next steps include testing the nanoparticle therapeutic at later time points in nonhuman primate infections with Marburg virus Angola and other strains.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 7(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1127 Published online Oct. 2, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Thi, E.P. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 20, 2014; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3009706 Contact: Thomas W. Geisbert, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Galveston, Texas e-mail: twgeisbe@utmb.edu Contact: Ian MacLachlan, Tekmira Pharmaceuticals Corp., Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada e-mail: imaclachlan@tekmirapharm.com</p>