This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Gastrointestinal disease				
Colitis	Not applicable	<i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest synthetic disialyl hexasaccharides could help prevent necrotizing enterocolitis in infants. Human milk oligosaccharides including disialyllacto- <i>N</i> -tetraose (DSLNT) contribute to the gut health of breastfed infants but are difficult to synthesize. In a neonatal rat model of necrotizing enterocolitis, the synthetic disialyl hexasaccharides disialyllacto- <i>N</i> -neotetraose (DSLNT) and α 2-6-linked disialyllacto- <i>N</i> -tetraose (DSLNT) protected rats from necrotizing enterocolitis with potency comparable to that of human milk oligosaccharides. Next steps include testing the synthetic hexasaccharides in additional animal models.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Yu, H. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online May 21, 2014; doi:10.1002/anie.201403588 Contact: Xi Chen, University of California, Davis, Calif. e-mail: xiichen@ucdavis.edu
SciBX 7(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.737 Published online June 26, 2014				