This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Viral infection	Venezuelan equine encephalitis viral nsP2 protein (VEEV nsP2)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest VEEV nsP2 inhibitors could help treat Venezuelan equine encephalitis viral (VEEV) infection, which causes acute CNS symptoms in about 14% of infected individuals. High throughput screening and mutagenesis studies in VEEV-infected nonhuman primate cells identified a quinazolinone analog that inhibited VEEV nsP2—a protein of unknown function—and blocked viral replication with a nanomolar IC ₅₀ value. In mice challenged intranasally with VEEV, pretreatment with the analog increased survival compared with vehicle pretreatment. Ongoing work includes optimizing the lead compound and other chemical scaffolds identified via high throughput screening.	Patented by The University of Kansas, the University of Louisville and the Southern Research Institute; available for licensing	Chung, D.-H. <i>et al. PLoS Pathog.</i> ; published online June 26, 2014; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004213 Contact: Dong-Hoon Chung, University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky. e-mail: dhchun01@louisville.edu
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