

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
Hepatitis C virus (HCV)	C5A	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> study suggests that the C5A peptide might be able to prevent HCV infection and suppress established HCV infection. The C5A peptide, which is derived from the membrane anchor domain of the HCV NS5A protein, inhibits HCV infection by destabilizing HCV virions. The compound has antiviral activity against a number of different viruses, supporting the idea that C5A targets host cellular components that are incorporated into the virus membrane rather than virus-encoded proteins that are part of the virus membrane. Next steps include testing C5A for anti-HCV activity in mice and chimpanzees. AstraZeneca plc has an NS5A inhibitor in Phase I testing to treat HCV infection.</p>	<p>Patent application filed for C5A to treat HCV, West Nile virus, dengue, measles, RSV and HIV/AIDS; exclusively licensed to Viriome Inc.; unavailable for licensing</p>	<p>Cheng, G. <i>et al. Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb 18, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0712380105  <b>Contact:</b> Francis V. Chisari, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif.            e-mail: <a href="mailto:fchisari@scripps.edu">fchisari@scripps.edu</a></p>