

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious Disease</b>				
Influenza	PA RNA polymerase subunit [Influenza A virus]; PB1 RNA polymerase subunit [Influenza A virus]	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that antagonizing the site at which PB1 binds to PA could help treat various influenza A virus infections. The X-ray crystal structure of PB1 bound to PA revealed that the interaction occurs via hydrogen bonds and hydrophobic contacts. Several single point mutations in the PB1 binding domain of PA weakened or abolished PB1 binding and reduced viral RNA synthesis by at least 40% compared with wild-type PA. The core of the PB1 interaction interface consisted of five residues: Pro5, Leu7, Leu8, Phe9 and Leu10. Next steps include developing a molecule to disrupt the PA-PB1 binding site.	Patent issued; available for licensing through Yokohama City University	Obayashi, E. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online July 27, 2008; doi:10.1038/nature07225 <b>Contact:</b> Sam-Yong Park, Yokohama City University, Kanagawa, Japan e-mail: <a href="mailto:park@tsurumi.yokohama-cu.ac.jp">park@tsurumi.yokohama-cu.ac.jp</a>