

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
Viral infection	Unknown	<p>Studies in mice suggest that low doses of FTY720 could be useful for treating chronic viral infections. In mice infected with the clone 13 strain of lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV), low doses of the immunosuppressive agent FTY720 on days 0–2 after infection significantly lowered serum viral titers as early as 5 days after infection compared with what was seen in untreated control mice (<math>p=0.0066</math>). Treated mice were able to clear infections by day 30. In mice with persistent LCMV infection, FTY720 treatment on days 30–32 after infection led to viral clearance by day 60. Next steps include clinical testing with FTY720 to treat chronic viral infections in humans and determining whether other viral infections can also be treated with the molecule.</p> <p>Fingolimod (FTY720), a sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 1 (S1PR1) agonist from Novartis AG, is in Phase III testing to treat relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS).</p> <p>Novartis licensed FTY720 from Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corp.</p>	Patent Cooperation Treaty patent application pending; available for worldwide licensing	<p>Premenko-Lanier, M. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Aug. 13, 2008 doi:10.1038/nature07199</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> John Altman, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: <a href="mailto:jaltman@rmy.emory.edu">jaltman@rmy.emory.edu</a></p>