

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Influenza A virus neuraminidase	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that porphyrin-zanamivir conjugates are photodynamic therapeutics for influenza A infection. <i>In vitro</i>, conjugates of a porphyrin linked to four molecules of the influenza A neuraminidase inhibitor Relenza zanamivir were 10–100 times more active than free zanamivir against influenza A virus. The increased antiviral potency resulted from light-induced generation of antiviral reactive oxygen species by the porphyrin portion. Ongoing work includes <i>in vivo</i> studies of the conjugates to treat influenza A.</p> <p>GlaxoSmithKline plc markets Relenza to treat influenza A infection.</p> <p>SciBX 2(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1014 Published online June 25, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Wen, W.-H. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online June 12, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900515g</p> <p>Contact: Jim-Min Fang, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan e-mail: jmfang@ntu.edu.tw</p> <p>Contact: Yih-Shyun E. Cheng, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan e-mail: ysecheng@gate.sinica.edu.tw</p>