

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Viral infection	Zinc finger and BTB domain containing 16 (ZBTB16; PLZF)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that enhancing PLZF expression could help treat viral infection. <i>In vitro</i>, interferon (IFN) activated PLZF to induce expression of IFN-stimulating genes via a positive feedback loop. In <i>Plzf</i>^{-/-} mice, expression of Ifn-stimulating genes was disrupted and animals were more susceptible to viral infection than wild-type mice. Also in the knockouts, increased viral susceptibility correlated with impaired Ifn-mediated NK cell function. Next steps include high throughput screens to identify agonists of PLZF.</p> <p>SciBX 2(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1016 Published online June 25, 2009</p>	Invention disclosure filed; available for licensing	<p>Xu, D. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online May 11, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2009.04.013</p> <p>Contact: Bryan R.G. Williams, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia e-mail: bryan.williams@med.monash.edu.au</p>