

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Influenza A virus hemagglutinin (HA)	An <i>in vitro</i> study identified saponin-based inhibitors of avian H5N1 HA that could be useful for treating the infection. In a viral infectivity assay, three of the saponin-based compounds inhibited H5N1 HA-mediated viral entry with IC ₅₀ values of 7.22–9.25 μM. Next steps include testing the compounds on other influenza A strains and in animal models. SciBX 2(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1052 Published online July 9, 2009	Patent application filed covering compounds and anti-H5N1 activities; unavailable for licensing	Song, G. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online June 16, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900275m Contact: Yingxia Li, Ocean University of China, Qingdao, China e-mail: liy417@ouc.edu.cn Contact: Ying Guo, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China e-mail: yingguo6@yahoo.com