This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Pulmonary disease				
Cystic fibrosis (CF)	Cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR)	<p>A study in human lung epithelium explants suggests that viral delivery of CFTR could help treat CF. In the ciliated cells of cultured lung epithelium from CF patients, transfection with recombinant parainfluenza viral vector expressing CFTR induced higher CFTR expression and better ion transport than transfection with a control vector. In an <i>in vitro</i> assay of mucus flow, viral transfection into as few as 25% of cells restored CF epithelium function to levels that were comparable to those in healthy controls. Next steps include developing parainfluenza virus variants with attenuated replication and lower immunogenicity.</p> <p>SciBX 2(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1192 Published online Aug. 6, 2009</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Zhang, L. <i>et al. PLoS Biol.</i>; published online July 21, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000155 Contact: Raymond Pickles, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: raymond_pickles@med.unc.edu</p>