This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	HCV RNA	Structural studies suggest that benzimidazole inhibitors could be useful for treating HCV. Analysis of a crystal structure showed that benzimidazole bound a conserved 5' region of the viral RNA in which translation of viral protein begins. In cell culture, benzimidazole inhibited translation of HCV proteins. A fluorescence spectroscopic assay was developed to screen for potential inhibitors, and next steps include using the assay to lead compounds. SciBX 2(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1411 Published online Sept. 24, 2009	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Parsons, J. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online Sept. 20, 2009; doi:10.1038/nchembio.217 Contact: Thomas Hermann, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: tch@ad.ucsd.edu