

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Dengue fever	Dengue virus RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp)	<p>A study in mice suggests that the adenosine nucleoside inhibitor NITD008 could help treat dengue fever. In a mouse model of lethal dengue virus infection, NITD008 completely protected the animals from death. Infected mice treated with NITD008 had dose-dependent decreases in viremia and inflammatory cytokine levels compared with vehicle-treated controls. However, in rat and dog models of dengue fever, the compound showed significant toxicity. Next steps include studying the causes of the toxicities and exploring other molecules with better safety margins. Novartis AG has at least one additional undisclosed compound in preclinical development to treat dengue fever.</p> <p>SciBX 2(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1696 Published online Dec. 3, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Yin, Z. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 16, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0907010106</p> <p>Contact: Pei-Yong Shi, Novartis AG, Basel, Switzerland e-mail: pei_yong.shi@novartis.com</p>