

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Respiratory infection	Integrin $\alpha_v\beta_1$	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that inhibiting integrin $\alpha_v\beta_1$ may be useful for preventing lower respiratory infections caused by human metapneumovirus (hMPV). <i>In vitro</i>, antibodies separately targeting integrin α_v and β_1 significantly decreased hMPV infectivity by >80% compared with what was seen using control antibodies ($p < 0.0001$). In cell lines transfected with integrin α_v and β_1, hMPV infectivity increased by twofold and threefold, respectively, compared with that seen in mock-transfected controls. Next steps could include evaluating integrin α_v and β_1 inhibitors in animal models of MPV infections.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.192 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Cseke, G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 19, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0801433106 Contact: John V. Williams, Vanderbilt University College of Arts and Sciences, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: john.williams@vanderbilt.edu</p>