

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
Influenza A	Influenza antigen hemagglutinin A (HA)	<p><i>In vitro</i> assays and mouse studies suggest that antibodies targeting the stem region of HA could treat or prevent influenza infection. Using a human antibody phage display library, 10 antibodies were identified that neutralized group 1 influenza viruses <i>in vitro</i>, including bird flu and Spanish flu. Three antibodies were converted to full-length human IgG1s, and injection of those IgG1s protected mice from H5N1 bird flu influenza challenge and lethal H1N1 influenza challenge. Additional studies are exploring the potential development of a vaccine based on the conserved HA stem epitope.</p> <p>Fifteen companies have therapies that are marketed or approved to treat or prevent influenza infection. No fewer than nine companies have therapies in Phase III testing to treat or prevent influenza infection.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.319</b>  <b>Published online Feb. 26, 2009</b></p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Sui, J. <i>et al. Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol.</i>; published online Feb. 22, 2009; doi:10.1038/nsmb.1566</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Wayne Marasco, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass.  e-mail: <a href="mailto:wayne_marasco@dfci.harvard.edu">wayne_marasco@dfci.harvard.edu</a></p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Robert Liddington, Burnham Institute for Medical Research, La Jolla, Calif.  e-mail: <a href="mailto:rlidding@burnham.org">rlidding@burnham.org</a></p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Ruben Donis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Ga.  e-mail: <a href="mailto:rvd6@cdc.gov">rvd6@cdc.gov</a></p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Jianhua Sui, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass.  e-mail: <a href="mailto:jianhua_sui@dfci.harvard.edu">jianhua_sui@dfci.harvard.edu</a></p>