This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
West Nile virus (WNV)	IL-23; toll-like receptor 7 (TLR7)	Studies in mice suggest that targeting the TLR7 and IL-23 signaling pathway may help treat WNV. In TLR7$^{-/-}$ mice, survival rates in response to WNV challenge were 9% compared with about 50% for wild-type controls ($p<0.05$). Moreover, TLR7- deficient mice had lower IL-23-dependent leukocytes trafficking to infected cells, an essential host defense mechanism for WNV, than wild-type controls. Next steps could include developing and evaluating compounds that stimulate TLR7 and IL-23 signaling in animal models of WNV infection. At least 13 companies are developing compounds targeting TLR7 or IL-23.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Town, T. *et al. Immunity*; published online Feb. 5, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2008.11.012 **Contact:** Richard A. Flavell, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: richard.flavell@yale.edu

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