

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
HCV	Non-structural protein 5B (NS5B)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and animal studies suggest that a cytidine nucleoside inhibitor of NS5B could help treat HCV infection. Computational modeling and <i>in vitro</i> studies identified 2'-deoxy-2'-spirocyclopropylcytidine as a noncytotoxic NS5B inhibitor that blocked HCV replication at low micromolar concentrations. In rats and dogs, the compound and its diester prodrug had good pharmacokinetics. Ongoing work includes additional biological, pharmacological and pharmacokinetic evaluation of the compound and its prodrug. Pharmasset Inc. and Roche have RG7128 (R7128; ROG5024048), a prodrug of Pharmasset's cytidine nucleoside analog and NS5B inhibitor PSI-6310, in Phase III testing to treat HCV infection.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1357</b>  <b>Published online Nov. 18, 2010</b></p>	Patented by Johnson & Johnson and Medivir AB; licensing status unavailable	<p>Jonckers, T.H.M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Oct. 29, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm101050a</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Tim H.M. Jonckers, Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Johnson &amp; Johnson, Beerse, Belgium  e-mail: <a href="mailto:tjoncker@its.jnj.com">tjoncker@its.jnj.com</a></p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Pierre Raboisson, same affiliation as above  e-mail: <a href="mailto:praboisson@its.jnj.com">praboisson@its.jnj.com</a></p>