

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
HCV	HCV non-structural protein 4B (NS4B)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified small molecule NS4B inhibitors that could help treat HCV infection. A high throughput screen identified two small molecules that inhibited lipid vesicle aggregation, a step required for HCV replication. In an HCV replicon assay, the two molecules produced dose-dependent inhibition of HCV genome replication without cellular toxicity. Next steps include determining the pharmacokinetics of the compounds in animal models.</p> <p>Eiger Biopharmaceuticals Inc's clemizole, which targets NS4B DNA binding activity, is in Phase Ib trials to treat HCV.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.154</b>  <b>Published online Feb. 4, 2010</b></p>	Patent application filed; licensed by Eiger Biopharmaceuticals	<p>Cho, N.J. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 20, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000331</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Jeffrey S. Glenn, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.            e-mail: <a href="mailto:jeffrey.glenn@stanford.edu">jeffrey.glenn@stanford.edu</a></p>