This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Influenza A virus hemagglutinin (HA)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified new HA-binding peptides that could help treat influenza virus. HA is a protein on the membrane of influenza viruses that binds receptors on the host cells to facilitate viral entry. HA-binding peptides were identified in a phage-display peptide library and then were optimized for increased binding affinity. In cell culture, the most potent compound inhibited infection by both H1N1 and H3N2 influenza strains. Next steps could include testing the compounds in animal studies.</p> <p>VaxInnate Corp.'s influenza A vaccine targeting HA, VAX125, is in Phase II testing.</p> <p>Vaxart Inc.'s ND1 Avian flu vaccine, which targets HA, is in preclinical testing.</p> <p>SciBX 3(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.677 Published online June 3, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Matsubara, T. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online May 18, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm1002183</p> <p>Contact: Toshinori Sato, Keio University, Yokohama, Japan e-mail: sato@bio.keio.ac.jp</p>