This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Ebola	<i>Zaire ebolavirus</i> membrane associated protein (VP24); <i>Z. ebolavirus</i> polymerase complex protein (VP35); <i>Z. ebolavirus</i> L polymerase	Nonhuman primate studies suggest that encapsulated small interfering RNA targeting <i>Z. ebolavirus</i> proteins could help treat the infection. A cocktail of three siRNAs targeting Ebola proteins L polymerase, VP24 and VP35 was formulated in stable nucleic acid lipid particles (SNALPs) to avoid off-target immunostimulation and toxicity. Compared with no treatment, the SNALP-siRNA cocktail protected 66% of infected rhesus macaques when given as 4 postexposure treatments and protected 100% of animals when given as 7 postexposure treatments. Next steps include delivering the SNALP-siRNA cocktail at longer postexposure intervals.	Provisional patents filed covering use and composition of matter of the Ebola-targeting SNALP-siRNA formulation; licensing status undisclosed	Geisbert, T.W. <i>et al. Lancet</i> ; published online May 27, 2010; doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(10)60357-1 Contact: Thomas W. Geisbert, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. e-mail: geisbert@bu.edu
SciBX 3(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.703 Published online June 10, 2010				