This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Influenza A virus nucleoprotein (NP)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a compound that targeted NP and could help treat influenza A infection. Cell-based assays of influenza A infection identified inhibitors of viral replication, and a subsequent microscopy screen identified inhibitors that worked by blocking nuclear accumulation of influenza NP. Compared with no treatment, the lead compound, nucleozin, inhibited influenza A virus replication in human alveolar basal epithelial cells and improved survival in mice challenged with avian influenza A H5N1. Next steps include studies in primates.</p> <p>Nucleozin is an off-the-shelf chemical.</p> <p>SciBX 3(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.705 Published online June 10, 2010</p>	Patent application filed covering findings; unlicensed	<p>Kao, R.Y. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online May 30, 2010; doi:10.1038/nbt.1638</p> <p>Contact: Richard Kao, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China e-mail: rytkao@hkucc.hku.hk</p>