

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
HCV	AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK)	<p>A study in cell culture suggests that boosting AMPK signaling could help treat HCV infection. In HCV-infected human cells and in cells carrying the HCV replicon, AMPK activity was inhibited compared with that in non-HCV-expressing control cells. In the replicon-bearing cells, metformin-induced activation of AMPK led to less HCV genome replication than no treatment. Next steps include evaluating AMPK agonists in a clinical trial.</p> <p>Metformin is a generic biguanide-based drug marketed to treat diabetes.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.731</b>  <b>Published online June 17, 2010</b></p>	Patent application filed covering use of AMPK agonists for treating HCV infection; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Mankouri, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 7, 2010;            doi:10.1073/pnas.0912426107</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Mark Harris,            University of Leeds, Leeds, U.K.            e-mail:  <a href="mailto:m.harris@leeds.ac.uk">m.harris@leeds.ac.uk</a></p>