

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
Influenza virus	Influenza A virus hemagglutinin (HA)	<p>A study in mice identified an epitope derived from a highly conserved region of HA that could help prevent influenza infection. In mice challenged with a lethal dose of influenza, immunization with a peptide derived from the conserved region increased survival compared with no immunization. Next steps could include designing peptides that provide immunity across multiple HA subtypes.</p> <p>FluMist, a live attenuated influenza vaccine from AstraZeneca plc's MedImmune LLC unit, is marketed to prevent influenza infection.</p> <p>VaxInnate Corp's VAX125, an influenza A vaccine targeting HA, is in Phase II testing.</p> <p>Vaxart Inc's ND1 Avian flu vaccine, which targets HA, is in preclinical testing.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.866</b> Published online July 22, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Bommakanti, G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 6, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1007465107</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Raghavan Varadarajana, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India e-mail: <a href="mailto:varadar@mbu.iisc.ernet.in">varadar@mbu.iisc.ernet.in</a></p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Xiaoping Liang, Merck Research Laboratories, West Point, Pa. e-mail: <a href="mailto:xiaoping_liang@merck.com">xiaoping_liang@merck.com</a></p>