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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Fc fragment of IgG receptor transporter-α (FCGRT; FCRN); influenza A virus hemagglutinin (HA)	*In vitro* and mouse studies identified an intracellular transport mechanism required for antibody-mediated influenza protection. In influenza virus–infected canine kidney cells expressing rat Fcrn, an anti-HA antibody inhibited viral fusion with intracellular envelope proteins and decreased viral load 100-fold compared with IgG control. Wild-type mice receiving an anti-HA antibody were protected against lethal influenza infection, whereas Fcrn knockout mice were not. Next steps include testing whether the mechanism applies to other infectious pathogens. Vaxart Inc.'s ND1, a vaccine expressing influenza A HA, is in Phase I testing. VaxInnate Corp.'s VAX125, an influenza vaccine linking HA to flagellin, is in Phase II testing. ***SciBX*** **4(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1273** **Published online Nov. 17, 2011**	IP disclosure filed with the University of Maryland Office of Technology Commercialization; available for licensing	Bai, Y. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Oct. 31, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1115348108 **Contact:** Xiaoping Zhu, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. e-mail: xzhu1@umd.edu **Contact:** Pamela J. Björkman, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif. e-mail: bjorkman@caltech.edu

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