

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	Not applicable	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest a class of cyclic peptides could help treat HCV infection. In a human cell-based HCV infectivity assay, screening and SAR studies of a series of eight-residue, cyclic D,L-α-peptides identified multiple compounds that prevented viral entry at low micromolar EC₅₀ values. In the cell lines, two of the hits reduced or prevented the spread of HCV compared with vehicle. Future studies could include peptide optimization and <i>in vivo</i> testing of the lead peptides.</p> <p>SciBX 4(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1329 Published online Dec. 8, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Montero, A. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Nov. 23, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2011.08.017 Contact: M. Reza Ghadiri, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: ghadiri@scripps.edu</p>