SciBX
Science-Business eXchange

THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Influenza virus hemagglutinin 2 (HA2)	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest targeting a broadly neutralizing influenza epitope could help prevent or treat H3N2, H7N7 and other influenza A group 2 infections. *In vitro*, a mAb isolated from individuals vaccinated against influenza bound a conserved HA2 epitope to neutralize H3, H7 and other group 2 influenza viruses. In mouse models of H3N2 and H7N7 viral infection, the mAb administered before or after viral challenge lowered mortality compared with an inactive control antibody. Future studies include testing the mAb in combination with a second broadly neutralizing antibody against influenza A group 1 viruses in animal models of influenza infection. Johnson & Johnson's Crucell N.V. unit is developing flu-mAb, a universal mAb product, which is in preclinical testing to treat and prevent influenza A viral infections. High-dose Fluzone, a preservative-free influenza vaccine against influenza H1N1, H3N2 and B viral strains from Sanofi, is in registration to prevent influenza infection. VGX-3400, a DNA-based vaccine targeting variable influenza H1, H2, H3 and H5 hemagglutinins as well as conserved regions neuraminidase and matrix protein 2e nucleoprotein from Inovio Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase I testing to prevent H1N1 and H5N1 influenza infection. *SciBX* 4(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.798 Published online July 21, 2011	Patented by Crucell; licensing status unavailable	Ekiert, D.C. *et al. Science*; published online July 7, 2011; doi:10.1126/science.1204839 **Contact:** Ian A. Wilson, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: wilson@scripps.edu **Contact:** Wouter Koudstaal, Crucell N.V., Leiden, the Netherlands e-mail: wouter.koudstaal@crucell.com