This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Infectious disease	Macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF)	<p>Studies in mice suggest inhibiting MIF could help treat arthritis associated with the Ross River virus (RRV). In a mouse model of RRV infection, compared with mock infected animals, Mif was significantly upregulated ($p < 0.05$). In the model, a small molecule MIF antagonist decreased arthritis and disease-related weight loss compared with vehicle control. Next steps include looking at the role of MIF receptors in the disease and testing additional MIF antagonists.</p> <p>Advanced Cancer Therapeutics LLC's 4-IPP, a small molecule MIF inhibitor, is in preclinical testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>Cortical Pty. Ltd. has small molecule MIF antagonists in lead optimization to treat autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 4(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.829 Published online July 28, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Herrero, L.J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 5, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1101089108</p> <p>Contact: Suresh Mahalingam, Griffith University, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia e-mail: s.mahalingam@griffith.edu.au</p>