

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Ebola	Niemann-Pick disease type C1 (NPC1)	<i>In vitro</i> and cell culture studies suggest benzylpiperazine adamantane diamide-derived compounds could prevent Ebola infection. In nonhuman primate cells, a screen of a small molecule library identified a benzylpiperazine adamantane diamide that decreased Ebola virus infection by 99% compared with vehicle. A cross-linking experiment showed that NPC1 is the target of the antiviral. Next steps include testing the compound in animal models of Ebola infection.	Patent application filed covering compositions of compounds and their use to treat Ebola and related infections; available for licensing through Harvard University's Office of Technology Development	Côté, M. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Aug. 24, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10380 Contact: James Cunningham, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: jcunningham@rics.bwh.harvard.edu
<p>SciBX 4(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.990 Published online Sept. 8, 2011</p>				