

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Protease-activated receptor 1 (PAR1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting PAR1 could help treat influenza virus infection. In mouse models of influenza A virus infection, genetic deletion or pharmacological inhibition of Par1 attenuated inflammation and virus replication in the lung and protected against weight loss and death. The PAR1 inhibitor vorapaxar protected the mice from low pathogenic H1N1 and H3N2 infection as well as high pathogenic H5N1 or pandemic H1N1 infection. Next steps could include testing clinical-stage PAR1 inhibitors. In 2011, Merck & Co. Inc. discontinued dosing of patients in two Phase III trials of vorapaxar to prevent cardiovascular events because intracranial hemorrhage occurred in a subset of patients. In 2012, the pharma announced plans to file regulatory applications for the compound in the same indication but in a restricted patient population.</p> <p>SciBX 5(49); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1285 Published online Dec. 20, 2012</p>	Patented by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA); available for licensing	<p>Khoufache, K. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Dec. 3, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI61667 Contact: Béatrice Riteau, University of Lyon and the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), Lyon, France e-mail: beatrice.riteau@univ-lyon1.fr</p>