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This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	RSV F protein	*In vitro* studies suggest antibodies targeting the prefusion conformation of the RSV F protein could be a more efficient alternative to current RSV prophylactics. Current RSV prophylactics target both the prefusion and postfusion conformations of RSV F protein. Preparations of human RSV F immunoglobulin without antibodies against the postfusion conformation retained most of their original neutralizing activity. Next steps include preparing neutralizing mAbs specific for the prefusion RSV F protein conformation and comparing them with Synagis palivizumab. AstraZeneca plc and Abbott Laboratories market the humanized anti–RSV F mAb Synagis as a prophylactic for RSV. AstraZeneca's motavizumab (MEDI-524), a humanized anti–RSV F mAb, is in Phase II trials as a prophylactic for RSV.	Prefusion antibodies patented; available for licensing	Magro, M. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Feb. 8, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1115941109 **Contact:** José A. Melero, National Center for Microbiology and the Center of Biomedical Investigation Network for Respiratory Disease, Madrid, Spain e-mail: jmelero@isciii.es

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