

This week in therapeutics

| Indication | Target/marker/pathway | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Infectious disease | | | | |
| Ebola | v-abl Abelson murine leukemia viral oncogene homolog 1 (ABL1) | <p>Cell culture studies suggest ABL1 inhibitors could help treat Ebola infection. In cells cultured with Ebola virus-like particles, either Gleevec imatinib or Tasigna nilotinib, which inhibit ABL1 and the oncogenic BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase fusion, produced dose-dependent decreases in the release of virus-like particles from the cells compared with vehicle. In cells cultured with the Ebola virus Zaire strain, nilotinib lowered virus production compared with vehicle. Next steps include pilot pharmacokinetic studies in nonhuman primates.</p> <p>Novartis AG markets Gleevec to treat chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) and gastrointestinal stromal tumors, and the company markets Tasigna to treat CML.</p> <p>SciBX 5(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.309 Published online March 22, 2012</p> | Patent application filed; available for licensing | <p>Garcia, M. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 29, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003500</p> <p>Contact: Gary J. Nabel, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: gnabel@nih.gov</p> |