

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
HCV	HCV protease	<p>Rat and <i>in vitro</i> studies have identified macrocyclic urea-based HCV protease inhibitors that could help treat HCV infection. In HCV replicon assays, the compounds inhibited HCV replication with better potency than marketed and clinical-stage inhibitors. In rats, oral dosing of a lead inhibitor resulted in higher concentrations of the compound in the liver than oral dosing of two clinical-stage inhibitors. Researchers did not disclose next steps, which could include testing the lead inhibitor in animal models of HCV infection.</p> <p>GlaxoSmithKline plc did not disclose the status of the compounds, which were developed in collaboration with Anacor Pharmaceuticals Inc. Victrelis boceprevir, a small molecule HCV NS3/4A protease complex inhibitor from Merck &amp; Co. Inc., is approved to treat HCV infection. Incivek telaprevir, a small molecule HCV NS3/4A protease complex inhibitor from Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., Johnson &amp; Johnson and Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corp., is marketed to treat HCV infection.</p> <p>At least 10 other companies have HCV protease inhibitors in Phase III trials or earlier development to treat HCV infection.</p> <p><b>SciBX 5(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.418</b>  <b>Published online April 19, 2012</b></p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Kazmierski, W.M. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 3, 2012; doi:10.1021/jm201278q  <b>Contact:</b> Wieslaw M. Kazmierski, GlaxoSmithKline plc, Research Triangle Park, N.C.                      e-mail: <a href="mailto:wieslaw.m.kazmierski@gsk.com">wieslaw.m.kazmierski@gsk.com</a>  <b>Contact:</b> Maosheng Duan, same affiliation as above                      e-mail: <a href="mailto:duanmaosheng@hdbiosciences.com">duanmaosheng@hdbiosciences.com</a></p>