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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Endoplasmic reticulum to nucleus signaling 1 (ERN1; IRE1)	*In vitro* studies suggest inhibiting IRE1 signaling could help treat influenza infection. In human lung epithelial cells, influenza A infection activated the IRE1 endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress response. Cells pretreated with an IRE1 inhibitor or tauroursodeoxycholic acid (TUDCA), a naturally occurring bile salt that decreases ER stress, had lower viral replication and viral titers than untreated cells. Next steps include testing TUDCA in mouse models of influenza infection. MannKind Corp.'s MKC204, an IRE1 inhibitor, is in preclinical testing to treat multiple myeloma (MM). Urso ursodiol (ursodeoxycholic acid) from Aptalis Pharma Inc. is marketed to treat primary biliary cirrhosis. *SciBX* 5(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.47 Published online Jan. 12, 2012	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Hassan, I.H. *et al. J. Biol. Chem.*; published online Dec. 22, 2011; doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.284695 **Contact:** Ihab H. Hassan, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: ihab-hassan@uiowa.edu