

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Infectious disease; respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	Metapneumovirus F protein; RSV F protein	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest the human mAb MPE8 could help treat or prevent RSV and metapneumovirus (MPV) infection. The antibody was isolated from immortalized memory B cells obtained from blood donors with high serum neutralizing antibody titers against both viruses. <i>In vitro</i> and in cell culture, MPE8 neutralized RSV and MPV by binding to the prefusion F protein. In a mouse model of RSV infection, MPE8 was 5- to 10-fold more potent than Synagis palivizumab at decreasing virus levels in the lung. Next steps could include a clinical trial of MPE8 in transplant patients who have an upper respiratory tract infection caused by RSV or MPV.</p> <p>AstraZeneca plc and Abbott Laboratories market Synagis, a humanized mAb against RSV F protein, as a prophylactic for RSV infection.</p> <p>AstraZeneca's motavizumab, a humanized anti-RSV F protein mAb, is in Phase III trials as a prophylactic for RSV infection.</p> <p>SciBX 6(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.997 Published online Sept. 19, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing through Humabs BioMed S.A.	<p>Corti, D. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Aug. 18, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12442 Contact: Antonio Lanzavecchia, University of Lugano, Bellinzona, Switzerland e-mail: lanzavecchia@irb.usi.ch Contact: Davide Corti, Humabs BioMed S.A., Bellinzona, Switzerland e-mail: davide.corti@humabs.ch</p>