This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
SARS-associated coronavirus	Exoribonuclease in nonstructural protein 14 (nsp14-ExoN)	*In vitro* studies suggest nsp14-ExoN inhibitors could help sensitize coronaviruses to RNA mutagen therapeutics including ribavirin. In murine hepatitis virus coronaviruses, knockout of the RNA proofreading gene *nsp14-ExoN* increased sensitivity to 5-fluorouracil and ribavirin by 300-fold and decreased viral replication compared with no knockout. In *nsp14-ExoN*-deficient SARS viruses, 5-fluorauracil treatment induced 16-fold more mutations than those seen in wild-type viruses. Next steps could include identifying and evaluating pharmacological nsp14-ExoN inhibitors in animal infection models.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Smith, E.C. *et al. PLoS Pathog.*; published online Aug. 15, 2013; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1003565 **Contact:** Mark R. Denison, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: mark.denison@vanderbilt.edu

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