This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Viral infection	VEEVgp1 non-structural polyprotein precursor P1234 (VEEVgp1)	*In vitro* and mouse studies have identified quinazolinone derivatives that could help treat infections with Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (VEEV) and related alphaviruses. A chemical screen for compounds that inhibit VEEV-induced cellular pathology identified an optimized amidine quinazolinone derivative that inhibited the nonstructural polyproteins 2 and 4 encoded by *VEEVgp1*. In nonhuman primate cells, the compound decreased replication of several VEEV strains with nanomolar potency and without detectable cytotoxicity. In a mouse model of lethal VEEV infection, the compound increased survival compared with no treatment. Next steps include further optimizing the compound to improve its *in vivo* pharmacokinetic profile, assessing its efficacy across a spectrum of alphaviruses and other viruses and elucidating its mechanism of action.	Patented; available for licensing	Schroeder, C.E. *et al. J. Med. Chem.*; published online Sept. 22, 2014; doi:10.1021/jm501203v **Contact:** Jennifer E. Golden, The University of Kansas Specialized Chemistry Center, Lawrence, Kan. e-mail: jengolden@ku.edu

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