This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Sialic acid	Mouse studies suggest multivalent peptides made up of carbohydrate-binding modules could be used to prevent influenza virus infection. Sialic acid–interacting peptides were generated from carbohydrate-binding modules from *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Vibrio cholerae* sialidase, with or without an oligomerization domain from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. In a mouse model of influenza virus challenge, prophylactic intranasal delivery of a peptide seven days before challenge led to pulmonary expression of Il-1β, interferon-γ (Ifng; Ifnγ) and tumor necrosis factor-α (Tnf-α) and enabled survival of all mice. Next steps include testing the peptides in ferret models of influenza infection and conducting toxicology studies. *SciBX* 7(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.530 Published online May 8, 2014	Patent application filed; available for licensing or partnering from The University of St. Andrews **Contact:** Ewan Chirnside, University of St. Andrews, Fife, U.K. phone: +44 (0)1334 467223 e-mail: ec36@st-andrews.ac.uk	Connaris, H. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online April 14, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1404205111 **Contact:** Robert G. Webster, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: robert.webster@stjude.org