This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Infectious disease	ST3 β-galactoside α-2,3-sialyltransferase 4 (ST3GAL4)	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest inhibiting ST3GAL4 could help prevent hemorrhagic fever associated with Lassa virus infection. In a human cell-based screen, mutations in *lysosomal-associated membrane protein 1* (*LAMP1*) or *ST3GAL4* rendered cells resistant to Lassa virus infection. In *ST3GAL4*$^{-/-}$ cells, LAMP1 lost the ability to bind Lassa glycoproteins. In a mouse model of Lassa infection, *Lamp1* knockout mice cleared injected virus, whereas *Lamp1*-expressing mice manifested infection. Next steps could include testing whether small molecule inhibitors of ST3GAL4 can prevent Lassa infection. *SciBX* 7(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.896 Published online Aug. 7, 2014	Patent and licensing status unknown	Jae, L.T. *et al. Science*; published online June 27, 2014; doi:10.1126/science.1252480 **Contact:** Thijn R. Brummelkamp, The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands e-mail: t.brummelkamp@nki.nl **Contact:** John M. Dye, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Fort Detrick, Md. e-mail: john.m.dye1.civ@mail.mil **Contact:** Sean P. Whelan, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: sean_whelan@hms.harvard.edu