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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Coronavirus	Coronavirus NSP6 protein (nsp6)	Cell culture studies suggest targeting nsp6 could help treat coronavirus infection. In a chemical screen using normal human lung cell lines, a small molecule called K22 inhibited replication caused by a pathogenic strain of human coronavirus with an IC_{50} value of 0.7 μM. In human airway epithelial cells, K22 decreased replication of various coronavirus strains including Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) compared with vehicle. In culture, coronavirus strains with nsp6 mutations were resistant to K22, suggesting the compound targets that protein. Next steps include optimizing the activity of K22 and elucidating the biological function of NSP6. *SciBX* 7(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.741 Published online June 26, 2014	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Lundin, A. *et al. PLoS Pathog.*; published online May 29, 2014; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004166 **Contact:** Edward Trybala, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden e-mail: edward.trybala@microbio.gu.se **Contact:** Volker Thiel, Kantonal Hospital St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland e-mail: volker.thiel@vetsuisse.unibe.ch