

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	EtpA; flagellin	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that bacterial EtpA and flagellin could potentially be used in vaccines to help prevent or treat enterotoxigenic <i>E. coli</i> infection. In cultured intestinal cells, both EtpA and flagellin were necessary for intestinal adhesion of <i>E. coli</i> . In mice vaccinated with full-length flagellin, intestinal colonization by enterotoxigenic <i>E. coli</i> was impaired compared with that seen in mice vaccinated with control adjuvant. Further confirmation of the mechanism in animals is necessary before clinical testing. At least five companies have therapeutics to treat <i>E. coli</i> infection in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed.	Patent application filed covering the prevention and treatment of Gram-negative flagellated bacterial infections; available for licensing	Roy, K. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Dec. 7, 2008; doi:10.1038/nature07568 Contact: James M. Fleckenstein, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: jfleckel@tennessee.edu
		SciBX 1(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1103 Published online Dec. 18, 2008		