This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	Unknown	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> study identified a class of anionic amphiphilic dendrimers that may be useful for treating bacterial infections. In an antimicrobial activity assay, two of the dendrimers produced dose-dependent decreases in the population of <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> compared with what was seen in controls treated with myristic acid, succinic acid or glycerol. In uninfected cultured human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs), one of the two dendrimers showed negligible cytotoxicity. Next steps include identifying additional dendrimer antibiotics and testing them against resistant and nonresistant strains of <i>Staphylococcus</i>.</p> <p>SciBX 1(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.925 Published online Oct. 23, 2008</p>	<p>Patent application filed for use of anionic amphiphilic dendrimers as antibiotics; available for licensing from the Boston University Office of Technology Development</p>	<p>Meyers, S.R. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online Oct. 9, 2008; doi:10.1021/ja806912a Contact: Mark W. Grinstaff, Boston University, Boston, Mass. e-mail: mgrin@bu.edu</p>