This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Candida	<i>Candida albicans</i> zinc-regulated transcription factor (Zap1); <i>C. albicans</i> glucoamylase 1 (Gca1); Gca2; <i>C. albicans</i> alcohol-keto reductase (Csh1); <i>C. albicans</i> alcohol dehydrogenase (Sad1; Adh5; CaO19.2608)	Studies <i>in vitro</i> and in rats suggest that enhancing Zap1 activity could help treat drug-resistant fungal infections. In a rat model of catheter-associated infection, <i>Zap1</i> -deficient <i>C. albicans</i> infection led to biofilm formation with increased levels of extracellular matrix production compared with wild-type <i>C. albicans</i> infection. Both <i>in vitro</i> and in the rat model, overexpression of the Zap1 target genes <i>Gca1</i> , <i>Gca2</i> or <i>Adh5</i> inhibited matrix production and could thus potentially reduce infections. Next steps could include identifying small molecule activators of <i>Zap1</i> or its target genes.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Nobile, C. <i>et al. PLoS Biol.</i> ; published online June 15, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000133 Contact: Aaron P. Mitchell, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa. e-mail: apm1@andrew.cmu.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 2(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1080 Published online July 16, 2009				