This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Urinary tract infection (UTI)	Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4)	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that activating TLR4 signaling could help treat bacterial UTI. In <i>Escherichia coli</i>-infected human bladder epithelial cells, <i>E. coli</i>-derived lipopolysaccharide (LPS), a TLR4 agonist, significantly increased bacterial expulsion from cells compared with no treatment ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include evaluating a TLR4 ligand in a mouse model of bacterial UTI.</p> <p>SciBX 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1282 Published online Aug. 27, 2009</p>	<p>Patent pending covering TLR4 ligands and other inducers of cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) and their use in UTI; available for licensing from the Duke University Office of Licensing & Ventures</p> <p>Contact: Dennis Thomas, Duke University, Durham, N.C. phone: 919-681-7580 e-mail: dennis.thomas@duke.edu</p>	<p>Song, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 17, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0900527106</p> <p>Contact: Soman N. Abraham, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C. e-mail: soman.abraham@duke.edu</p>