This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	Inositol polyphosphate- 5-phosphatase (INPP5D; SHIP)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that activating SHIP could be useful for preventing an aberrant innate immune response against Gram-negative bacterial infections. Such responses can produce excessive inflammatory molecules that can damage host tissue and cause septic shock. In response to lipopolysaccharide, mice lacking Ship overproduced interferon-β (IFN-β) and developed severe hypothermia compared with wild-type mice, which developed only a transient fever. Next steps include developing small molecule modulators of SHIP.</p> <p>AQX-MN100, a SHIP agonist from Aquinox Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in preclinical testing for cancer and inflammatory indications.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.189 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	SHIP and certain small molecule modulators of SHIP are patented; technology is exclusively licensed to Aquinox Pharmaceuticals	<p>Sly, L. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Jan. 12, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-06-166082</p> <p>Contact: Gerald Krystal, BC Cancer Research Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada e-mail: gkrystal@bccrc.ca</p>