This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Fungal infection	Heat shock protein 90 (HSP90AA1; Hsp90)	<p>A study in wax moth (<i>Galleria mellonella</i>) larvae suggests that Hsp90 inhibitors plus antifungal agents may help treat fungal infections. In larvae receiving a lethal dose of <i>Candida albicans</i>, fluconazole plus an Hsp90 inhibitor significantly increased survival compared with that seen using either compound alone ($p < 0.0001$). Similar results were seen in larvae infected with a lethal dose of <i>Aspergillus terreus</i> and treated with a combination of caspofungin and an Hsp90 inhibitor ($p < 0.0001$). In both cases, the Hsp90 inhibitors lowered resistance to the fungicides. Next steps include developing fungus-specific Hsp90 inhibitors. Diflucan fluconazole, a synthetic triazole antifungal from Pfizer Inc., is marketed to treat candida infection. Mycograb, a mAb targeting Hsp90 from Novartis AG, is in Phase III testing for candida infection and meningitis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.229 Published online Feb. 12, 2009</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research Office for Intellectual Property Contact: Monica Gerber, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. phone: 617-258-6193 e-mail: gerber@wi.mit.edu</p>	<p>Cowen, L.E. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0813394106 Contact: Susan Lindquist, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: Lindquist_admin@wi.mit.edu Contact: Leah E. Cowen, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: leah.cowen@utoronto.ca</p>