This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Tuberculosis (TB)	Not available	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inducing autophagy could increase the efficacy of TB vaccines. In macrophages treated with the vaccine bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG), induction of autophagy by rapamycin triggered increased presentation of the main BCG antigen, Ag85B, compared with that seen in controls. In mice, subcutaneous immunization with rapamycin-treated dendritic cells (DCs) carrying BCG increased antigen presentation and improved response to aerosol TB challenge compared with what was seen in mice immunized with untreated DCs. Next steps could include developing Ag85B- or other antigen-overexpressing BCG variants as well as exploring similar antigen-enhancement techniques for other vaccines.</p> <p>At least six companies have TB vaccines in clinical and preclinical development.</p> <p>SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.412 Published online March 12, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Jagannath, C. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online March 1, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1928 Contact: Chinnaswamy Jagannath, University of Texas Health Sciences Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: Chinnaswamy.Jagannath@uth.tmc.edu</p>