This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Sepsis	Not applicable	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that modifying recombinant human activated protein C (APC) to increase its cytoprotective properties and decrease its anticoagulant properties may lead to better sepsis therapies. APC is associated with serious bleeding risk in patients with severe sepsis. In a mouse model of sepsis, animals receiving an engineered Apc with little anticoagulant activity had significantly lower mortality than controls ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include engineering and evaluating additional non-anticoagulant APC variants in animal models of sepsis.</p> <p>Xigris drotrecogin alfa, a recombinant human APC from Eli Lilly and Co., is marketed to treat sepsis. At least 13 other companies have compounds in clinical and preclinical testing for sepsis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.458 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	<p>Variants of recombinant APC are patented; additional patents pending; licensed to Socratech LLC and ZZ Biotech LLC</p>	<p>Mosnier, L.O. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Feb. 24, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-10-183327</p> <p>Contact: John H. Griffin, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: jgriffin@scripps.edu</p>