This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	Clustered, regularly interspaced, short palindromic repeat (CRISPR) loci	Studies in cell culture suggest that CRISPR interference could be useful for limiting the spread of antibiotic resistance genes and virulence factors in pathogenic bacteria. The emergence of Methicillin- and vancomycin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> has been linked to the transfer of antibiotic resistance genes among bacteria by plasmid conjugation. In <i>S. epidermis</i> , CRISPR interference prevented gene transfer by blocking plasmid conjugation. Next steps include identifying a method to deliver CRISPR RNA or RNA-generating CRISPR DNA into bacteria.	Patent application filed by Northwestern University; available for worldwide licensing	Marraffini, L. & Sontheimer, E. <i>Science</i> ; published online Dec. 18, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1165771 Contact: Erik Sontheimer, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. e-mail: erik@northwestern.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.60 Published online Jan. 15, 2009				