This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	Fucose-binding lectin PA-IIL (lecB)	<p>A study in cell culture identified lecB-binding peptide dendrimers that may be useful for dispersing <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> biofilms and sensitizing the organism to antibiotics. <i>P. aeruginosa</i> can form biofilms that protect it from antibiotics. In a <i>P. aeruginosa</i> biofilm inhibition assay, the lecB-binding dendrimer FD2 inhibited biofilm formation by 100% at 50 μM and by 55% at 10 μM. FD2 also dispersed established biofilms with greater efficacy than a reference lecB ligand. Next steps include evaluating additional dendrimers in biofilm inhibition and dispersion assays and in animal models. GMI-1051, a lectin (PA-IL and PA-IIL) antagonist from GlycoMimetics Inc., is in preclinical testing to treat <i>Pseudomonas</i> infection.</p> <p>SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.61 Published online Jan. 15, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Johansson, E.M.V. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Dec. 19, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2008.10.009</p> <p>Contact: Jean-Louis Reymond, University of Berne, Berne, Switzerland e-mail: jean-louis.reymond@ioc.unibe.ch</p>