This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Sepsis; streptococcus infection	Kininogen-1 (KNG-1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that a peptide mimic of the bacteria-binding region of KNG-1 could be used to prevent sepsis resulting from <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> infection. In <i>S. pyogenes</i>, incubation with the peptide, dubbed HKH20, prevented activation of proinflammatory cascades compared with a control peptide. In mice infected with <i>S. pyogenes</i>, HKH20 produced dose-dependent reductions of lung lesions. In combination with clindamycin, the compound also increased survival compared with a control peptide. Next steps could include studies of HKH20 in other models of bacteria-induced sepsis.</p> <p>At least four companies have clindamycin products marketed or approved to treat bacterial infections.</p> <p>SciBX 2(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.915 Published online June 4, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Oehmcke, S. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online May 11, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-10-182527</p> <p>Contact: Sonja Oehmcke, Lund University, Lund, Sweden e-mail: sonja.oehmcke@med.lu.se</p>