This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Staphylococcus	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> dehydroqualene synthase (CrtM)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified phosphonoacetamides as selective CrtM inhibitors that could help treat <i>S. aureus</i> infection. In <i>S. aureus</i> , the compounds inhibited CrtM, which catalyzes a first step in the synthesis of a bacterial virulence factor. In mice challenged with <i>S. aureus</i> , the most potent inhibitor decreased surviving bacteria by 96% compared with saline treatment. Next steps include additional <i>in vivo</i> testing.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Song, Y. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online May 20, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm9001764 Contact: Eric Oldfield, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Ill. e-mail: eo@chad.scs.uiuc.edu
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