This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	Not applicable	<p><i>In vivo</i> mutagenesis studies identified more analogs of the peptide antibiotic mersacidin that could be used to treat Gram-positive bacterial infections. Analysis of a mutagenesis library yielded 82 new analogs, including compounds with activity comparable to or better than that of mersacidin. Next steps could include further optimization of the mutagenesis methodology to produce more potent lead compounds.</p> <p>Novacta Ltd's NVB302 peptide antibiotic is in preclinical testing to treat <i>Clostridium difficile</i> infection.</p> <p>Oragenics Inc's peptide antibiotic Mutacin 1140 is in preclinical testing to treat Gram-positive bacterial infections.</p> <p>SciBX 2(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.976 Published online June 18, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Appleyard, A. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online May 28, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2009.03.011</p> <p>Contact: Jesus Cortes, Novacta Ltd., Hertfordshire, U.K. e-mail: jesus.cortes@novactabio.com</p>