This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Anthrax; smallpox	Not applicable	<p>Rabbit and mouse studies suggest that a dual smallpox and anthrax vaccine could protect against both infections. A smallpox vaccine was modified to include the immune-boosting cytokine IL-15 and an anthrax antigen. In rabbits, the combination vaccine protected against lethal anthrax challenge and elicited an immune response that protected against smallpox. In mice, the dual vaccine protected 33% of animals from lethal anthrax challenge compared with 10% of animals treated with the marketed anthrax vaccine BioThrax anthrax vaccine adsorbed (AVA). Next steps include testing the dual vaccine in primate models of anthrax and monkeypox infection.</p> <p>Emergent BioSolutions Inc. markets BioThrax AVA to prevent anthrax infection.</p> <p>SciBX 3(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1208 Published online Oct. 14, 2010</p>	Findings patented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Merkel, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 4, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1013083107</p> <p>Contact: Liyanage P. Perera, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: pereral@mail.nih.gov</p>