This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	ABO blood group (ABO)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that the lectins galectin-4 (LGALS4; GAL-4) and LGALS8 (GAL-8) could help kill bacteria that express blood group antigen. Some bacteria evade a host's immune response by expressing antigens that are similar to human blood group antigens. In cultures of <i>Escherichia coli</i> that expressed antigens resembling those of human blood group B, delivery of GAL-4 or GAL-8 killed the <i>E. coli</i>. In mice, Gal-4 and Gal-8 killed the antigen-expressing <i>E. coli</i> but did not kill bacteria lacking antigen expression. Next steps could include testing the strategy in additional animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 3(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.280 Published online March 4, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Stowell, S. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 14, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2103</p> <p>Contact: Richard D. Cummings, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: rdcummi@emory.edu</p>