This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Pseudomonas	<i>Pseudomonas</i> LPS-assembly protein (ostA; lptD; imp)	<p>Studies in mice and in cell culture identified protegrin I-derived peptide mimetics that could help treat <i>Pseudomonas</i> infections. In two mouse septicemia models, two of the mimetics improved survival at a lower effective dose than the generic antibiotic gentamicin. The mimetics worked by disrupting the lipopolysaccharide (LPS) transport function of lptD. Next steps include evaluating the lead mimetic, Polyphor Ltd.'s POL7080, in a Phase I trial to treat <i>Pseudomonas</i> infections.</p> <p>SciBX 3(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.282 Published online March 4, 2010</p>	<p>Multiple patent applications filed covering protein epitope mimetics with antibiotic and antimicrobial activity; POL7080 and the follow-on research program to assess antibacterial activity against other Gram-negative bacterial strains available for licensing from Polyphor</p>	<p>Srinivas, N. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Feb. 18, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1182749 Contact: John A. Robinson, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland e-mail: robinson@oci.uzh.ch Contact: Steven J. DeMarco, Polyphor Ltd., Allschwil, Switzerland e-mail: steve.demarco@polyphor.com</p>