This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Nematode infection	Nematode nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (nAChR)	<p>A study in cultured roundworms suggests that bacterially derived pore-forming proteins could increase the efficacy of nAChR agonists to treat nematode infection. In a <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i>-based model of parasitic nematode growth, worms resistant to the nAChR agonist levamisole were hypersensitive to Cry5B, a pore-forming toxic protein from the bacterium <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>. A combination of tribendimidine, which is another nAChR agonist, and Cry5B was more effective at killing worms than tribendimidine alone. Next steps include formulating a combination of tribendimidine and Cry5B for preclinical testing in a mouse model of nematode infection. Tribendimidine is marketed in China by Shandong Xinhua Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. to treat nematode infections.</p> <p>SciBX 3(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.408 Published online April 1, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Hu, Y. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 15, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0912327107</p> <p>Contact: Raffi V. Aroian, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: raroian@ucsd.edu</p>