This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Sepsis; influenza virus	Slit homolog 2 (SLIT2); roundabout homolog 4 (ROBO4)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that a SLIT2 fragment could help prevent cytokine storm-induced tissue damage and death caused by bacterial sepsis or severe viral infection. In cultured human vascular endothelial cells, signaling between SLIT2 and its receptor, ROBO4, prevented proinflammatory cytokines from impairing vascular stability. In two mouse models of bacterial sepsis and in a mouse model of H5N1 influenza infection, treatment with a Slit2 fragment reduced cytokine storm-induced vascular permeability and consequent organ damage and increased survival compared with no treatment. Next steps include ongoing efforts to explore the biology and mechanisms involved in vascular stability.</p> <p>SciBX 3(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.409 Published online April 1, 2010</p>	Patented by The University of Utah; licensed to Navigen Pharmaceuticals	<p>London, N. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online March 17, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000678</p> <p>Contact: Dean Y. Li, The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah e-mail: dean.li@hmbg.utah.edu</p>