This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	Not applicable	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies suggest that a class of small cationic peptides called peptoids could help treat drug-resistant bacterial infections. Two binaphthyl cationic peptoids had low micromolar activity against multiple species of Gram-positive bacteria, including methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA), vancomycin-resistant <i>S. aureus</i> and vancomycin-resistant <i>Enterococcus</i>. In mouse models of systemic and nasal MRSA infection, the peptoids reduced bacterial loads to levels comparable to those achieved with control antibiotics. Planned work includes testing additional peptoid analogs for activity against Gram-positive bacteria.</p> <p>Avexa Ltd. is developing one of the peptoids to treat bacterial infections.</p> <p>SciBX 3(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.52 Published online Jan. 14, 2010</p>	Patented by the University of Wollongong and Avexa; available for licensing	<p>Bremner, J. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i>; published online Dec. 11, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200904392</p> <p>Contact: Stephen G. Pyne, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia e-mail: spyne@uow.edu.au</p> <p>Contact: Paul A. Keller, same affiliation as above e-mail: keller@uow.edu.au</p> <p>Contact: John B. Bremner, same affiliation as above e-mail: john_bremner@uow.edu.au</p>