This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Meningitis	<i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i> urease (CNH01900)	A study in mice suggests that inhibiting urease could help prevent meningitis and encephalitis caused by <i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i> infection. Mice injected with wild-type <i>C. neoformans</i> had higher levels of <i>C. neoformans</i> in the brain and lower survival than animals injected with urease-knockout <i>C. neoformans</i>. In infected mice, a urease inhibitor significantly reduced levels of <i>C. neoformans</i> in the brain and increased survival compared with vehicle ($p < 0.05$ for both). Next steps include evaluating the effects of urease inhibitors in other strains of <i>Cryptococcus</i>. SciBX 3(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.558 Published online May 6, 2010	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Shi, M. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online April 26, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI41963 Contact: Christopher H. Mody, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada e-mail: cmody@ucalgary.ca