This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Poisoning; bacterial infection	Not applicable	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified compounds that could help protect against poisoning by ricin, a castor bean-derived toxin that is a potential biowarfare agent. High throughput screening in cell-based assays identified two compounds that inhibited ricin trafficking in alveolar epithelial cells. <i>In vitro</i> , the inhibitors blocked trafficking of ricin and Shiga-like toxins compared with vehicle controls. In mice, one of the inhibitors protected against intranasal ricin challenge compared with vehicle control. Next steps include optimizing the compounds and identifying their targets.	Patent applications filed covering application of the compounds to treat ricin and Shiga-like toxins; any new compounds derived from the two covered by patents; available for licensing	Stechmann, B. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online April 16, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2010.01.043 Contact: Ludger Johannes, Institute Curie, Paris, France e-mail: ludger.johannes@curie.fr Contact: Daniel Gillet, Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies Commission, Gif sur Yvette, France e-mail: daniel.gillet@cea.fr
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