This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Tuberculosis (TB)	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase (pckA)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibition of bacterial pckA could help treat TB. In cultured mouse macrophages, as compared with in wild-type macrophages, a <i>pckA</i> knockout strain of <i>M. tuberculosis</i> had reduced growth due to impaired gluconeogenesis. In mouse models of acute and chronic TB, infection with the <i>pckA</i> knockout strain led to greater bacterial clearance than infection with the wild-type strain. Future studies could include identifying and testing inhibitors of bacterial pckA.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Marrero, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online May 3, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1000715107 Contact: Sabine Ehrt, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y. e-mail: sae2004@med.cornell.edu
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