This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Cholera	Cholera autoinducer 1 (CAI-1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that bacteria modified to express the <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> protein CAI-1 could help prevent cholera. Mice receiving a CAI-1-expressing <i>Escherichia coli</i> strain eight hours prior to <i>V. cholerae</i> oral challenge had a 92% survival rate compared with mice that received either no treatment or an unmodified probiotic bacterial strain, which all died. In the pretreated mice, cholera toxin levels in the intestines and <i>V. cholerae</i> concentrations in the gastrointestinal tract were lower than those in control animals. Next steps include designing clinical trials of the modified bacteria.</p> <p>SciBX 3(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.730 Published online June 17, 2010</p>	U.S. patent application filed; available for licensing once patent granted	<p>Duan, F. & March, J.C. <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 7, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1001294107</p> <p>Contact: John C. March, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. e-mail: jcm224@cornell.edu</p>