This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Sepsis	Sphingosine kinase 1 (SPHK1)	<p>A study in mice and patient samples suggests that inhibiting SPHK1 could help treat sepsis. In macrophages isolated from 30 patients, a SPHK1-specific inhibitor blocked lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-triggered production of proinflammatory factors compared with saline buffer control, which did not reduce production at all. In a mouse model of septic shock, the SPHK1-specific inhibitor improved survival compared with no treatment. Next steps include evaluating SPHK1 inhibition in larger animal studies and performing a toxicity study.</p> <p>SciBX 3(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.732 Published online June 17, 2010</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering use of a SPHK1-specific inhibitor in inflammatory diseases; available for licensing from the University of Glasgow</p> <p>Contact: Alirio J. Melendez, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, U.K. e-mail: a.melendez-romero@clinmed.gla.ac.uk</p>	<p>Puneet, P. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online June 3, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1188635</p> <p>Contact: Alirio J. Melendez, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, U.K. e-mail: a.melendez-romero@clinmed.gla.ac.uk</p>