This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	Bacterial membrane	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that acyl-lysyl oligomers could help treat bacterial infections. <i>In vitro</i>, the lead compound from a series of synthetic acyl-lysyl oligomers showed low micromolar bactericidal activity against 49 strains of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, including drug-resistant strains. In a mouse model of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> thigh infection, a single injection of the lead compound reduced bacterial count in the infected muscle by 96% compared with injection of vancomycin ($p < 0.0001$). Ongoing and planned work includes identifying additional lead compounds and elucidating the molecular basis of their antibacterial activity.</p> <p>SciBX 3(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.86 Published online Jan. 21, 2010</p>	Patented by Technion-Israel Institute of Technology; available for licensing	<p>Livne, L. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Dec. 24, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2009.11.012</p> <p>Contact: Amram Mor, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel e-mail: amor@tx.technion.ac.il</p>