This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Anthrax	<i>Bacillus anthracis</i> poly- γ -D-glutamic acid (γ DPGA)	Studies in mice suggest that humanized mAbs against <i>B. anthracis</i> γ DPGA could help treat anthrax infection. In mice receiving a pulmonary <i>B. anthracis</i> challenge, the prophylactic mAbs increased survival compared with vehicle control ($p \leq 0.001$). Also in mice, the γ DPGA-targeting mAbs given 8 and 20 hours after pulmonary <i>B. anthracis</i> challenge decreased mortality compared with a control mAb ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include evaluating the identified mAbs in additional animal models of anthrax exposure.	Patent application filed for use of mAb in immunoprophylaxis and therapy; available for licensing from the NIH Office of Technology Transfer	Chen, Z. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Dec. 27, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1017677108 Contact: Robert H. Purcell, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: rpurcell@niaid.nih.gov Contact: Zhaochun Chen, same affiliation as above e-mail: zc20a@nih.gov
		<i>SciBX</i> 4(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.105 Published online Jan. 27, 2011		