This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Viral infections	Lipopolysaccharide (LPS)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest disrupting viral interactions with gut bacteria could help protect against viral infections. In antibiotic-treated and germ-free mice, transmission of mouse mammary tumor virus (MMTV) to offspring was lower than that in control mice. In antibiotic-treated mice, disease pathology caused by poliovirus and reovirus infection was decreased compared with that in untreated controls. In cell culture, delivery of poliovirus plus bacterial surface polysaccharides including LPS led to greater infectivity and transmission than delivery of poliovirus alone. Next steps include determining how bacteria and bacterial surface polysaccharides interact with viral particles to mediate infectivity and whether interfering with these interactions could inhibit viral transmission.</p> <p>SciBX 4(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1183 Published online Oct. 27, 2011</p>	<p>Provisional patent application filed by The University of Chicago for findings in first study; available for licensing</p> <p>Findings in second study unpatented; unavailable for licensing</p>	<p>Kane, M. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Oct. 14, 2011; doi:10.1126/science.1210718 Contact: Tatyana V. Golovkina, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: tgolovki@bsd.uchicago.edu</p> <p>Kuss, S.K. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Oct. 14, 2011; doi:10.1126/science.1211057 Contact: Julie K. Pfeiffer, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas e-mail: julie.pfeiffer@utsouthwestern.edu</p>