This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Tuberculosis (TB)	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> cell division protein FtsZ (<i>MtbftsZ</i>)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that a class of benzimidazoles could help treat TB. <i>In vitro</i> , the benzimidazole analogs had low micromolar minimum inhibitory concentrations against six strains of <i>M. tuberculosis</i> , including drug-resistant strains. <i>In vitro</i> , the analogs inhibited the polymerization of <i>MtbftsZ</i> , a tubulin homolog that plays a key role in bacterial cell division, compared with vehicle controls. Ongoing work includes lead optimization and testing the lead compounds in animal models of TB. SciBX 4(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.16 Published online Jan. 6, 2011	Patent application filed by The Research Foundation of the State University of New York; available for licensing or partnering	Kumar, K. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Dec. 2, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm1012006 Contact: Iwao Ojima, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, N.Y. e-mail: iojima@notes.cc.sunysb.edu