This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Pneumococcus	Not applicable	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> antigens that could be used in T helper type 17 (Th17) cell-based vaccines for pneumococcal infections. In an <i>S. pneumoniae</i> protein library, antigens were identified that induced a proinflammatory IL-17 (IL-17A) response in T cells from mice immune to pneumococcus. In mice, immunization with the antigens plus cholera toxin adjuvant decreased bacterial burden following intranasal <i>S. pneumoniae</i> challenge compared with immunization using a nonspecific protein antigen. Ongoing studies are finalizing the composition of a vaccine based on the identified antigens. Next steps include testing the finalized version in animals.</p> <p>Genocea Biosciences Inc. collaborated with Harvard Medical School on the paper.</p> <p>SciBX 4(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.339 Published online March 24, 2011</p>	Patent application filed for the most promising T cell antigens; Genocea Biosciences is considering partnership opportunities	<p>Moffitt, K.L. <i>et al. Cell Host Microbe</i>; published online Feb. 17, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.chom.2011.01.007</p> <p>Contact: Richard Malley, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: richard.malley@childrens.harvard.edu</p>