This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Meningitis	Adrenergi receptor β_2 (ADRB2)	<p>Cell culture studies suggest that agonizing ADRB2 could help treat or prevent meningitis caused by <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> infection. In a cell culture model of the blood brain barrier, the generic ADRB2 agonist isoproterenol decreased both the number of <i>N. meningitidis</i>-induced gaps between cells and bacterial migration through the barrier compared with no treatment. Next steps include identifying the specific region of ADRB2 bound by <i>N. meningitidis</i>.</p> <p>At least 15 companies have ADRB2 agonists from preclinical to marketed to treat asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.</p> <p>SciBX 4(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.75 Published online Jan. 20, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Coureauil, M. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Dec. 23, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2010.11.035</p> <p>Contact: Stefano Marullo, University Paris Descartes and Cochin Institute, Paris, France e-mail: stefano.marullo@inserm.fr</p>