This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Tuberculosis (TB)	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> 30S ribosomal protein S1 (RpsA)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest inhibiting <i>trans</i> -translation could help treat TB. <i>Trans</i> -translation, a process that uses transfer-messenger RNA (tmRNA) to repair ribosomal complexes, is required for bacterial stress survival. In a cell-free system, an active derivative of the generic TB drug pyrazinamide inhibited <i>trans</i> -translation compared with an inactive control compound. <i>In vitro</i> , the derivative bound to RpsA and blocked its interaction with tmRNA. Next steps include plans to collaborate with pharmaceutical companies to develop more powerful inhibitors of <i>trans</i> -translation.	Patent application filed; available for licensing through The Johns Hopkins University Technology Transfer Office Contact: Rachel Cassidy, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: rcassid1@jhmi.edu	Shi, W. <i>et al. Science</i> ; published online Aug. 11, 2011; doi:10.1126/science.1208813 Contact: Ying Zhang, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: yzhang@jhsph.edu
SciBX 4(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.938 Published online Aug. 25, 2011				