This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	DNA gyrase; topoisomerase IV	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest an inhibitor of bacterial DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV could help treat bacterial infections. Screening of <i>Kibdelosporangium</i> sp. extracts in a <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>-based assay and <i>in vitro</i> testing identified kibelomycin as an inhibitor of bacterial DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV. Kibelomycin had low micromolar to picomolar MICs against multiple Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria. Merck & Co. Inc. has the compounds in preclinical development to treat bacterial infections.</p> <p>At least 15 companies market antibiotics that inhibit DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV to treat a range of bacterial infections.</p> <p>SciBX 4(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.987 Published online Sept. 8, 2011</p>	Patented by Merck; unavailable for licensing	<p>Phillips, J.W. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Aug. 26, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2011.06.011</p> <p>Contact: Sheo B. Singh, Merck Research Laboratories, Merck & Co. Inc., Rahway, N.J. e-mail: sheo.singh@merck.com</p>