This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
<i>Staphylococcus</i>	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> cell division protein FtsZ	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest combining standard β-lactam antibiotics with an FtsZ inhibitor could help overcome antibiotic resistance to treat methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA). <i>In vitro</i>, antisense knockdown of the MRSA FtsZ gene increased sensitivity to β-lactam antibiotics compared with no knockdown. In a murine thigh model of MRSA infection, a combination of the β-lactam antibiotic imipenem and an FtsZ inhibitor significantly decreased infection compared with vehicle or either agent alone ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include developing FtsZ inhibitors to use in combination with standard antibiotics to treat MRSA.</p> <p>Imipenem is a generic broad-spectrum antibiotic.</p> <p>SciBX 5(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.370 Published online April 5, 2012</p>	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Tan, C.M. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online March 21, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003592</p> <p>Contact: Terry Roemer, Merck Research Labs, Kenilworth, N.J. e-mail: terry_roemer@merck.com</p>