This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Pseudomonas	Extended-spectrum β -lactamase (ESBL); <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> OXA-28	<p>Bacterial cell culture studies suggest blocking the migration of a gene cassette in <i>P. aeruginosa</i> could help prevent antibiotic resistance. A ceftazidime-resistant clinical isolate of <i>P. aeruginosa</i> had higher levels of an OXA-28-containing gene cassette that encodes ESBL than its ceftazidime-sensitive parent strain. In the parent strain, transient treatment with the antibiotic metronidazole led to mobilization of the gene cassette and resistance to ceftazidime. Next steps include screening for compounds that block the mobilization of the gene cassette in response to metronidazole.</p> <p>GlaxoSmithKline plc markets Fortaz ceftazidime for bacterial infections.</p> <p>Sanofi markets Flagyl metronidazole to treat bacterial and parasitic infections.</p> <p>SciBX 5(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.678 Published online June 28, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Hocquet, D. <i>et al. PLoS Pathog.</i>; published online June 14, 2012; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1002778 Contact: Samuel I. Miller, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: millersi@u.washington.edu Contact: Didier Mazel, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France e-mail: mazel@pasteur.fr</p>