This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Gram-negative bacterial infection	Pesticin receptor protein (FyuA)	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified a modified variant of pesticin that could help treat Gram-negative bacterial infections. Pesticin is a toxic protein that kills Gram-negative bacteria expressing FyuA, although many strains encode a gene that confers pesticin resistance. Crystallography and bacterial growth assays were used to engineer a hybrid pesticin-lysozyme peptide that killed FyuA-expressing bacteria carrying plasmid-encoded pesticin resistance. Next steps include optimizing the toxin's stability for <i>in vivo</i> experiments.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Lukacik, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 7, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1203472109 Contact: Susan K. Buchanan, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: skbuchan@helix.nih.gov
<i>SciBX</i> 5(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.706 Published online July 12, 2012				