This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Anthrax	<i>Bacillus anthracis</i> lethal factor	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest depsidones could help treat anthrax exposure. A high throughput screen for compounds that inhibit the cleavage of mitogen-activated protein kinase kinases (MKKs) by <i>B. anthracis</i> lethal factor identified 13 compounds. One of the compounds, the depsidone stictic acid, inhibited the enzyme by binding at a site other than the active site. In human macrophages, pretreatment with stictic acid or other depsidone analogs decreased anthrax toxin-induced cell death compared with no pretreatment. Next steps could include testing the effects of the compounds after anthrax exposure.</p> <p>IQ Therapeutics B.V.'s IQ-DAA, a dual antibody targeting <i>B. anthracis</i> lethal factor and protective antigen, is in Phase I testing to treat anthrax.</p> <p>SciBX 5(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.842 Published online Aug. 16, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Bannwarth, L. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online July 27, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2012.05.013</p> <p>Contact: Benjamin E. Turk, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: ben.turk@yale.edu</p>