This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Sepsis	Ataxia telangiectasia mutated (ATM); DNA damage response	<p>Mouse studies suggest anthracyclines could be used to treat sepsis by activating the DNA damage response. In a mouse model of severe sepsis, several anthracyclines increased survival compared with saline but did not decrease bacterial load. In the model, deletion of the DNA damage response gene <i>Atm</i> or disruption of autophagy in the lung eliminated the protective effects of anthracyclines. Next steps include conducting a clinical trial next year with epirubicin in patients with sepsis and testing anthracyclines in animal models of additional inflammatory diseases. Epirubicin is a generic topoisomerase II (TOP2) inhibitor.</p> <p>SciBX 6(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1356 Published online Dec. 12, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; unavailable for licensing	<p>Figueiredo, N. <i>et al. Immunity</i>; published online Oct. 31, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2013.08.039</p> <p>Contact: Luis F. Moita, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal e-mail: lmoita@fm.ul.pt</p>