This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious diseases				
Gram-positive bacterial infection; <i>Staphylococcus</i>	Lipoteichoic acid synthase (LtaS)	A study <i>in vitro</i> and in mice suggests inhibiting LtaS could help treat infections of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and other Gram-positive bacteria. A high throughput screen identified a compound that blocked LtaS <i>in vitro</i> and inhibited the growth and altered the cell wall morphology of <i>S. aureus</i> , methicillin-resistant <i>S. aureus</i> and other Gram-positive bacteria at single-digit micromolar concentrations. In a mouse model for <i>Staphylococcus</i> sepsis, the compound increased survival compared with vehicle. Next steps include improving the <i>in vivo</i> stability and efficacy of inhibitors in animal models.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Richter, S.G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Feb. 11, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1217337110 Contact: Dominique Missiakas, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: dmissiak@bsd.uchicago.edu
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