This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection; candidiasis; malaria	Poly- <i>N</i> -acetylglucosamine (PNAG)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest an anti-PNAG antibody could help prevent infections from a range of pathogens. PNAG was expressed on the surface of <i>Candida albicans</i>, <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>, <i>Plasmodium</i> species, <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>, <i>S. pyogenes</i> and multiple other pathogens. In mouse models for <i>C. albicans</i>, <i>N. meningitidis</i>, <i>S. pneumoniae</i>, <i>S. pyogenes</i> or <i>P. burghei</i> infection, pretreatment with the anti-PNAG antibody F598 decreased pathogen burden and markers of disease compared with control antibody or control serum. Ongoing work includes testing F598 against <i>Escherichia coli</i> K1, Group B <i>Streptococcus</i> and other pathogens that cause neonatal infections.</p> <p>Alopexx Pharmaceuticals LLC and Sanofi have F598 (SAR279356) in Phase II testing to prevent bacterial infections.</p> <p>Alopexx Vaccine LLC has a vaccine based on deacetylated PNAG in preclinical development to prevent bacterial infections in humans and animals.</p> <p>SciBX 6(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.579 Published online June 13, 2013</p>	Patented by Brigham and Women's Hospital and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; licensed to Alopexx Pharmaceuticals LLC and Sanofi	<p>Cywes-Bentley, C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 28, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1303573110</p> <p>Contact: Gerald B. Pier, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: gpier@rics.bwh.harvard.edu</p>