This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	HBV core protein	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest the arginine-rich domain of HBV core protein could help treat bacterial infections. In various Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria including multidrug-resistant strains, the HBV core protein arginine-rich domain had antimicrobial activity. In a mouse model for <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> -induced sepsis, early intraperitoneal treatment with peptides based on the domain decreased bacterial burden by 100-fold compared with saline treatment and prevented death in all cases. Next steps include testing the peptides in additional infection models. SciBX 6(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.722 Published online July 25, 2013	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Chen, H.-L. <i>et al. PLoS Pathog</i> ; published online June 13, 2013; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1003425 Contact: Chiaho Shih, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan e-mail: cshih@ibms.sinica.edu