This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Tuberculosis (TB)	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> cytochrome bc ₁	Cell culture and mouse studies identified an inhibitor of <i>M. tuberculosis</i> cytochrome bc ₁ that could be useful for treating multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB. A screen for inhibitors of <i>M. tuberculosis</i> growth in infected murine macrophages identified a class of imidazopyridine amides that prevented bacterial replication with low nanomolar potency and were not cytotoxic to host cells. The best compound, Q203, inhibited bacterial respiration <i>in vitro</i> and decreased bacterial load and lung pathology compared with vehicle in MDR <i>M. tuberculosis</i> -infected mice. <i>In vitro</i> and in mice, Q203 had comparable activity to Sirturo bedaquiline, which is marketed by Johnson & Johnson to treat MDR pulmonary TB. Next steps could include studies in additional preclinical models of TB infection.	Patent pending; licensed to Qurient Co. Ltd.	Pethe, K. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online Aug. 4, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3262 Contact: Kevin Pethe, Institute Pasteur Korea, Seongnam-si, South Korea e-mail: kevin.pethe@ip-korea.org
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