This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
<i>Staphylococcus</i>	Sortase (srtA)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> srtA inhibitors could help prevent hospital-acquired <i>S. aureus</i> infection. In <i>S. aureus</i> cells, a small molecule inhibitor of srtA prevented anchoring of surface proteins required for infectivity but did not affect bacterial growth and showed no general antibiotic effects. In mice, i.p. injection of the srtA inhibitor prior to challenge with a clinical isolate of <i>S. aureus</i> increased survival compared with vehicle injection. Next steps include testing the effects of srtA inhibition in additional models of <i>Staphylococcus</i> infection.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Zhang, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Sept. 2, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1408601111 Contact: Cai-Guang Yang, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China e-mail: yangcg@simm.ac.cn
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