This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Tuberculosis	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> membrane protein MmpS4 (mmpS4); mmpS5	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest inhibiting siderophore secretion in <i>M. tuberculosis</i> could help treat tuberculosis. MmpS4 and mmpS5 are required for <i>M. tuberculosis</i> siderophore export, which facilitates iron scavenging. In <i>M. tuberculosis</i> , mutant mmpS4 and mmpS5 led to defective siderophore export, iron uptake and cell growth. In <i>M. tuberculosis</i> with the mutant membrane proteins, compared with <i>M. tuberculosis</i> with wild-type membrane proteins, exogenous siderophores did not restore cell growth and led to increased cell death. Next steps could include identifying points of therapeutic intervention in the siderophore pathway.	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Jones, C.M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Jan. 13, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1311402111 Contact: Michael Niederweis, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Ala. e-mail: mnieder@uab.edu
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