This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Meningitis; pneumonia	Properdin	<p>Mouse studies suggest recombinant properdin could help protect against bacterial meningitis and pneumonia. In mice, intraperitoneal injection of recombinant properdin prior to lethal <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> challenge resulted in 90% survival, whereas saline led to 0% survival. In mice, injection of recombinant properdin at time of <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> infection decreased the development of disease compared with injection of saline. Next steps include evaluating the recombinant properdin in additional models of bacterial and parasitic infections and improving the activity and homogeneity of the manufactured protein.</p> <p>SciBX 7(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.406 Published online April 10, 2014</p>	Patent application cofiled by University of Leicester and The Medicines Co.; available for licensing	<p>Ali, Y.M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 24, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1401011111</p> <p>Contact: Wilhelm J. Schwaeble, University of Leicester, Leicester, U.K. e-mail: ws5@le.ac.uk</p>