This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Skin and skin structure infection (SSSI)	<i>Staphylococcus</i> accessory gene regulator A (agrA)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest a small molecule inhibitor of <i>Staphylococcus</i> transcription could help treat bacterial skin infections. In cultured, pathogenic <i>S. aureus</i> , a small molecule agrA inhibitor blocked quorum sensing of the pathogenic bacteria without altering quorum sensing of the commensal skin bacteria <i>S. epidermidis</i> . In two mouse models of skin infection caused by Gram-positive bacteria, the small molecule agrA inhibitor given during bacterial challenge or after abscess development prevented tissue damage and increased bacterial clearance compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include testing the inhibitor in additional models of bacterial skin infection.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Sully, E.K. <i>et al. PLoS Pathog.</i> ; published online June 12, 2014; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004174 Contact: Pamela R. Hall, The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M. e-mail: phall@salud.unm.edu
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