

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Staphylococcus	Not applicable	<i>In vitro</i> screening and SAR studies identified antibiotics with activity against methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA). Both enantiomers of a compound named gemmacin showed activity against epidemic MRSA strains EMRSA 15 and EMRSA 16. Additional assay data suggested that the (-) enantiomer acted as a cell-membrane disrupter. Next steps include further optimization of both lead compounds and characterization of ADMET parameters. No fewer than seven companies have MRSA therapeutics on the market or in clinical development.	Compounds unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Thomas, G. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online Feb. 28, 2008; doi:10.1002/anie.200705415 Contact: David R. Spring, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: drspring@ch.cam.ac.uk