

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
Pneumonia	Interferon- $\gamma$ (IFN- $\gamma$ )	A study in mice suggests that antagonizing pulmonary IFN- $\gamma$ produced during influenza infection could help prevent secondary bacterial pneumonia infection. In mouse models of pneumococcal infection following influenza infection, knockout of IFN- $\gamma$ or IFN- $\gamma$ receptor increased lung bacterial clearance and improved survival compared with what was seen in wild-type mice. Next steps include evaluating whether IFN- $\gamma$ antagonism can prevent <i>Staphylococcal aureus</i> infections subsequent to influenza infection and investigating the role of other immune cells and surface receptors in IFN- $\gamma$ -mediated susceptibility to secondary bacterial infections.	Provisional patent application filed covering blockage of IFN- $\gamma$ to prevent multiple bacterial infections subsequent to viral respiratory infection; available for licensing; seeking partners to help develop small molecule IFN- $\gamma$ antagonists and design and run clinical trials	Sun, K. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online April 27, 2008; doi:10.1038/nm1765 <b>Contact:</b> Dennis W. Metzger, Albany Medical College, Albany, N.Y. e-mail: <a href="mailto:metzged@mail.amc.edu">metzged@mail.amc.edu</a>