

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Sepsis	Interleukin-1 receptor-associated kinase 2 (IRAK2)	<p>Studies in macrophages and mice suggest that inhibiting IRAK2 may be useful for treating sepsis. IRAKs are kinases needed for toll-like receptor (TLR) signaling, which promotes the production of inflammatory cytokines in sepsis. IRAK2 knockout mice survived challenge with sepsis-triggering molecules, whereas wild-type mice did not. Next steps include identifying downstream effectors of IRAK signaling and developing inhibitors of IRAK2 as potential sepsis therapeutics.</p> <p>At least 16 companies are developing preclinical or clinical compounds to treat sepsis.</p>	Not patented; not licensed	<p>Kawagoe T. <i>et al. Nat. Immunol.</i>; published online April 27, 2008; doi:10.1038/ni.1606</p> <p>Contact: Shizou Akira, Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan e-mail: sakira@biken.osaka-u.ac</p>