

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
Tuberculosis	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> strain H37Rv membrane-associated serine protease ( <i>Rv3671c</i> )	Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that disrupting <i>Rv3671c</i> could help treat infection by <i>M. tuberculosis</i> . In buffer, <i>M. tuberculosis</i> was resistant to acidic pH levels and maintained its intracellular pH. However, an <i>M. tuberculosis</i> strain with a disrupted <i>Rv3671c</i> gene was sensitive to acidic pH, and the mutant's growth was lower in mice than was that of the wild-type strain. Further studies are necessary to identify the mechanism by which <i>Rv3671c</i> mediates acid resistance and to identify inhibitors of its activity.	U.S. provisional patent application filed; available for licensing	Vandal, O. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online July 25, 2008; doi:10.1038/nm.1795 <b>Contact:</b> Sabine Ehrh, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y. e-mail: <a href="mailto:sae2004@med.cornell.edu">sae2004@med.cornell.edu</a>