This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection; *pneumococcus*	IL-1β; myeloid differentiation primary response gene 88 (MYD88)	A study in cell samples from immunocompromised patients suggests that screening for MYD88 deficiency may be useful for identifying patients with increased susceptibility to pyogenic bacterial infections such as invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD). *In vitro* studies showed that cells isolated from nine MYD88-deficient children who suffered multiple pyogenic bacterial infections had impaired responses to cytokines that signal a potential infection. Transfecting MYD88-deficient cells with a plasmid expressing wild-type MYD88 restored cell responsiveness to the cytokine IL-1β. Next steps include validating the results with samples isolated from a larger cohort of IPD patients.	Not patented; licensing status undisclosed	Bernuth, H. *et al. Science*; published online July 31, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1158298 **Contact:** Jean-Laurent Casanova, Necker Hospital, Paris, France e-mail: casanova@necker.fr