

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Staphylococcus	FtsZ	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice identified methoxybenzamide analogs as FtsZ inhibitors that could be useful for treating <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> infections. FtsZ is a bacterial cell-division protein that is distantly related to mammalian β-tubulin. In a bacterial survival assay, one of the analogs—PC190723—showed potent growth inhibitory activity in methicillin- and multidrug-resistant <i>S. aureus</i> strains. In a murine septicemia model of staphylococcal infection, 100% of mice receiving subcutaneous or i.v. PC190723 survived a lethal challenge of <i>S. aureus</i> compared with 0% of untreated mice. Further preclinical optimization of the compounds is ongoing.</p> <p>Almost 12 companies have therapeutics to treat <i>S. aureus</i> infections in clinical and preclinical development.</p>	Patent application filed covering the antibacterial agents; available for licensing	<p>Haydon, D. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Sept. 18, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1159961</p> <p>Contact: Neil Stokes, Prolysis Ltd., Oxfordshire, U.K. e-mail: neil.stokes@prolysis.com</p>