This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Pseudomonas	Aminoglycoside resistance (<i>amgRS</i>)	<p>Studies in mice and in cell culture suggest that inhibiting <i>amgRS</i> could increase the potency of aminoglycoside antibiotics for <i>Pseudomonas</i> infections. In a <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> biofilm culture, an inactivating mutation in <i>amgRS</i> increased the bactericidal activity of the aminoglycoside antibiotic tobramycin by 100-fold compared with its activity in the presence of wild-type <i>amgRS</i>. Tobramycin also significantly increased survival of mice infected with an antibiotic-resistant, <i>amgRS</i>-deficient <i>Pseudomonas</i> strain compared with saline control ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include screening for small molecule inhibitors against <i>amgRS</i> and studying the target's other functions.</p> <p>SciBX 2(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1244 Published online Aug. 20, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Lee, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 10, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0903619106</p> <p>Contact: Colin Manoil, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: manoil@u.washington.edu</p>