This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	Nicotinate-nucleotide adenylyltransferase (NadD)	<p>Computational and <i>in vitro</i> studies suggest that inhibiting NadD could have broad-spectrum antibacterial effects. <i>In silico</i> screens of virtual compounds and <i>in vitro</i> assays identified three scaffolds with micromolar inhibitory activity against <i>Escherichia coli</i> and <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> NadD. <i>In vitro</i> assays identified seven analogs that inhibited bacterial NadD proteins and bacterial growth at low micromolar concentrations. Ongoing work involves optimizing leads, identifying additional NadD inhibitor scaffolds and extending the study to other bacterial pathogens.</p> <p>SciBX 2(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1313 Published online Sept. 3, 2009</p>	Patented by the University of Maryland; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Sorci, L. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Aug. 27, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2009.07.006 Contact: Andrei L. Osterman, Burnham Institute for Medical Research, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: osterman@burnham.org Contact: Hong Zhang, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas e-mail: zhang@chop.swmed.edu Contact: Alexander D. MacKerell Jr., University of Maryland, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: amackere@rx.umaryland.edu</p>