This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Escherichia infection	Not applicable	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest that blocking formation of extracellular bacterial amyloid fibers could help treat *Escherichia coli* infection. *In vitro*, ring-fused 2-pyridone inhibitors of *E. coli* extracellular amyloid fiber production prevented pathogenic biofilm formation. In mice with urinary tract infections, the inhibitors decreased bacterial virulence and *E. coli* levels. Next steps include testing the compounds in more animal models and optimizing leads.	Provisional patent application filed; available for licensing	Cegelski, L. *et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.*; published online Oct. 25, 2009; doi:10.1038/nchembio.242 **Contact:** Scott J. Hultgren, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: hultgren@borcim.wustl.edu

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