This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Sepsis	Not applicable	Studies *in vitro* and in mice suggest that i.v. injection of bone marrow stromal cells (BMSCs) may help treat sepsis. *In vitro*, lipopolysaccharide-induced BMSCs showed greater prostaglandin E2 secretion, which triggered increased macrophage-derived IL-10 levels compared with those seen in controls. IL-10 is thought to boost the number of circulating, bacteria-killing neutrophils *in vivo*. In a mouse model of sepsis, BMSCs improved survival and lowered organ damage compared with what was seen in untreated mice or mice treated with anti-IL-10 antibodies. Further studies are necessary to determine a safe number of BMSC divisions in culture for transplantation into humans. At least 11 companies have therapeutics to treat sepsis in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed. *SciBX* 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.20 Published online Jan. 8, 2009	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing, but the researchers are open to collaboration	Nemeth, K. *et al. Nat. Med.*; published online Dec. 21, 2008; doi:10.1038/nm.1905 **Contact:** Éva Mezey, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: mezeye@mail.nih.gov