

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Sepsis	Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4) pathway	An SAR study characterized several TLR4 pathway antagonists that could be useful for treating sepsis. <i>In vitro</i> , a series of glycolipids and a benzylammonium lipid inhibited TLR4 pathway activity. In a mouse model of lipopolysaccharide-induced septic shock, three of the compounds increased survival of the mice compared with that seen using vehicle control. Next steps include ongoing pharmacological characterization of one of the glycolipids and the benzylammonium lipid.	The identified glycolipids are patented; the glycolipids and benzylammonium lipid are available for licensing	Piazza, M. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Jan. 22, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801333m Contact: Francesco Peri, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy e-mail: francesco.peri@unimib.it
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