This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Meningitis	Complement factor H (CFH); genome-derived neisserial antigen 1870 (GNA1870; fHbp; R2086)	Structural data on CFH in complex with the <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> surface protein GNA1870 could be useful for developing more effective meningococcal vaccines. The crystal structure revealed that <i>N. meningitidis</i> can avoid innate immune responses by concealing the most immunogenic GNA1870 epitopes through binding to CFH. Circumventing that mechanism could lead to the development of next-generation GNA1870-based vaccines. Next steps include ongoing efforts to engineer GNA1870 to avoid epitope concealing.	Patent application filed; unlicensed	Schneider, M. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Feb. 18, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature07769 Contact: Susan M. Lea, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K. e-mail: susan.lea@path.ox.ac.uk Contact: Christoph M. Tang, Imperial College London, London, U.K. e-mail: c.tang@imperial.ac.uk
SciBX 2(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.320 Published online Feb. 26, 2009				