This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Sepsis	Activated protein C (APC)	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that single-stranded DNA aptamers that selectively bind APC could help decrease bleeding associated with using recombinant APC (rAPC) to treat severe sepsis. In plasma and whole blood, the aptamers inhibited the anticoagulant activity of rAPC without affecting its antiapoptotic and cytoprotective functions. Next steps include animal studies of the aptamers.</p> <p>Xigris drotrecogin alfa, a recombinant human APC from Eli Lilly and Co., is marketed to treat sepsis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.709 Published online April 30, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; unlicensed	<p>Müller, J. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online April 23, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2009.03.007 Contact: Bernd Pötzsch, University Hospital Bonn, Bonn, Germany e-mail: bernd.poetzsch@ukb.uni-bonn.de Contact: Günter Mayer, same affiliation as above e-mail: gmayer@uni-bonn.de</p>