SciBX
Science-Business eXchange

THE DISTILLERY

## This week in therapeutics

| Indication | Target/marker/ pathway | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Infectious disease** | | | | |
| Clostridium | *Clostridium difficile* toxin A; *C. difficile* toxin B | A study in cell culture and in hamsters suggests that antagonizing toxin A and toxin B could be useful for treating *C. difficile* infections. In cell culture, a *C. difficile* strain lacking both toxin genes did not cause cell death compared with toxin A–null, toxin B–null or wild-type strains. In a hamster model of *C. difficile* infection, a strain lacking both toxins was asymptomatic compared with strains lacking only one toxin or wild-type strains. Next steps include formulating and testing compounds that target both toxins in animal models of *C. difficile* infection.<br>Merck & Co. Inc. and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.'s MDX-006 and MDX-1388, which are mAbs against toxin A and B, respectively, have completed Phase II testing for *C. difficile*–associated diarrhea (CDAD).<br>Cangene Corp. has a formulation of antibodies that neutralize seven different types of *C. difficile* toxin in Phase II testing for *C. difficile* infection.<br>Progenics Pharmaceuticals Inc. has mAbs against toxins A and B in preclinical development for *C. difficile* infection.<br><br>*SciBX* 3(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1122<br>Published online Sept. 23, 2010 | Unpatented; licensing status not applicable | Kuehne, S.A. *et al. Nature*; published online Sept. 15, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09397<br>**Contact:** Nigel P. Minton, The University of Nottingham, Nottingham, U.K.<br>e-mail: nigel.minton@nottingham.ac.uk |