This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Meningitis; <i>Streptococcus</i> infection	Hypervirulent GBS adhesin (HvgA)	Studies in mice suggest that a vaccine targeting HvgA could help prevent <i>Streptococcus</i> -induced neonatal meningitis. In mice infected with <i>S. agalactiae</i> , the major cause of neonatal meningitis, a strain lacking the surface protein HvgA showed lower bacterial counts in the brain than a wild-type control strain. In a mouse CNS infection model, HvgA-deficient strains had less of an ability to invade CNS tissues than a wild-type strain. Next steps include studying whether the detection of HvgA-positive <i>S. agalactiae</i> strains in infants could help decrease the incidence of meningitis.	Methods to detect <i>S. agalactiae</i> patented; available for licensing from the Pasteur Institute Technology Transfer Office	Tazi, A. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i> ; published online Oct. 18, 2010; doi:10.1084/jem.20092594 Contact: Claire Poyart, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, France e-mail: claire.poyart@cch.aphp.fr Contact: Marc Lecuit, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France e-mail: marc.lecuit@pasteur.fr
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