This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Fungal infection	Heat shock 70kDa protein 5 (glucose-regulated protein, 78kDa) (HSPA5; GRP78)	A study in mice and in cell culture suggests that inhibiting GRP78 could help prevent mucormycosis. Mice vaccinated with an anti-GRP78 immune serum had significantly lower mortality from *Rhizopus oryzae*–induced mucormycosis than controls receiving non–immune serum (p=0.037). In human endothelial cells, an anti-GRP78 antibody reduced *R. oryzae*–induced damage compared with a control antibody (p<0.02). Next steps include determining if passive immunization can reduce disease severity in mice already infected with a mucormycosis-causing agent. ***SciBX*** **3(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.646** **Published online May 27, 2010**	Patent filed covering use of mammalian receptors as targets for antibody and active vaccination therapy against mold infections; available for licensing from the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor–UCLA Medical Center	Liu, M. *et al. J. Clin. Invest.*; published online May 17, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI42164 **Contact:** Ashraf S. Ibrahim, Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor–UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, Calif. e-mail: ibrahim@labiomed.org

Copyright © 2010 Nature Publishing Group