This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Staphylococcus	*Staphylococcus epidermis* extracellular serine proteinase (Esp)	*In vitro* studies suggest that Esp secreted by *S. epidermidis* could help prevent *S. aureus* infection. *In vitro*, *S. aureus* biofilm formation was inhibited when the bacteria were cocultured with Esp-secreting *S. epidermidis* but not when they were cocultured with Esp-deficient *S. epidermis*. In humans carrying *S. aureus* in the nasal cavity, nasal introduction of Esp-secreting *S. epidermidis* eliminated *S. aureus* colonization compared with introduction of Esp-deficient bacteria. Next steps include identifying Esp-based therapeutics to eliminate colonization of pathogenic bacteria.	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Iwase, T. *et al. Nature*; published online May 19, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09074 **Contact:** Tadayuiki Iwase, The Jikei University, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: iwase.tadayuki@jikei.ac.jp

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