

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
Pneumococcus	Complement 5a (C5a)	<p>Studies in patient samples and in mice suggest inhibiting C5a could help treat pneumococcal meningitis. In cerebrospinal fluid samples from 204 patients with bacterial meningitis, higher levels of C5a correlated with greater inflammation and death. In a mouse model of pneumococcal meningitis, an anti-C5 antibody increased survival compared with IgG control. Next steps include determining whether anti-C5 antibodies could be used in conjunction with dexamethasone, an anti-inflammatory steroid used as adjunct therapy in bacterial meningitis. Alexion Pharmaceuticals Inc. markets Soliris eculizumab, a humanized mAb targeting C5, to treat paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH) and atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS).</p> <p><b>SciBX 4(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1089</b>  <b>Published online Oct. 6, 2011</b></p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Woehrl, B. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Sept. 19, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI57522</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Diederik van de Beek, Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands  e-mail: <a href="mailto:d.vandebeek@amc.uva.nl">d.vandebeek@amc.uva.nl</a></p>