This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Infectious disease	*Burkholderia pseudomallei* lethal factor 1 (BPSL1549); eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4A1 (EIF4A1)	*In vitro* and mouse studies identified a toxin from *B. pseudomallei* that could be blocked to treat the bacterial infection melioidosis. *In vitro*, purified BPSL1549, a toxin produced by *B. pseudomallei*, inhibited EIF4A1, a factor involved in protein translation. In mice, a *B. pseudomallei* strain lacking the toxin was less virulent than a wild-type strain expressing the toxin ($p<0.001$). Next steps include determining whether the toxin can preferentially kill proliferating tumor cells by inhibiting protein translation. *SciBX* 4(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1299 Published online Dec. 1, 2011	Patent application filed covering therapeutic use of BPSL1549; available for licensing	Cruz-Migoni, A. *et al. Science*; published online Nov. 11, 2011; doi:10.1126/science.1211915 **Contact:** Stuart A. Wilson, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, U.K. e-mail: stuart.wilson@sheffield.ac.uk **Contact:** David W. Rice, same affiliation as above e-mail: d.rice@sheffield.ac.uk