

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	UDP-N-acetylglucosamine 1-carboxyvinyltransferase (murA; EPT)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that antibiotics based on a phosphorylated peptidoglycan could help treat some bacterial infections. The peptidoglycan uridine diphosphate-N-acetylglucosamine (UNAG) is a component of the bacterial cell wall. In bacterial cell culture, phosphorylated UNAG inhibited murA and led to disruption of cell wall peptidoglycan synthesis and cell death. Next steps include chemically modifying phosphorylated UNAG to penetrate bacterial membranes and to decrease toxicity toward human cells.	Patent application filed; unavailable for licensing	Mutschler, H. <i>et al. PLoS Biol.</i> ; published online March 22, 2011; doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1001033 Contact: Anton Meinhart, Max Planck Institute for Medical Research, Heidelberg, Germany e-mail: anton.meinhart@mpimf-heidelberg.mpg.de
<p>SciBX 4(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.405 Published online April 7, 2011</p>				