This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
<i>Clostridium</i>	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> toxin A (TcdA); TcdB	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest nitrosylated TcdA and TcdB could help treat <i>C. difficile</i>. In mouse intestine exposed to TcdA, levels of the nitric oxide donor S-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO) and nitrosylated TcdA were greater than those in mice exposed to vehicle. In cultured intestinal cells, nitrosylated TcdA or TcdB induced less cytotoxicity than unmodified toxins. In a mouse model of <i>C. difficile</i> infection, oral dosing of GSNO increased survival compared with vehicle control. Next steps include developing and testing new toxin-nitrosylating compounds.</p> <p>SciBX 4(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.963 Published online Sept. 1, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Savidge, T.C. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 21, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2405</p> <p>Contact: Tor C. Savidge, The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas e-mail: tcsavidge@utmb.edu</p>