This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Cancer; sepsis	Heat shock protein 90 (Hsp90); lipopolysaccharide (LPS)	Cell culture studies suggest inhibiting the Hsp90-LPS interaction could help treat cancer and LPS-mediated inflammatory responses like sepsis. Peptide-based inhibitors were derived from the N-terminal helix of Hsp90. In murine cell lines, the peptide inhibitors decreased LPS-mediated inflammatory responses compared with a control peptide. In a human breast cancer cell line, a cell-permeable variant of one of the peptides lowered cell viability compared with a control peptide. Next steps include evaluating inhibition of the Hsp90-LPS interaction using *in vivo* models of cancer and sepsis. At least 14 companies have Hsp90 inhibitors in Phase III testing or earlier to treat various cancers. *SciBX* 5(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.534 Published online May 17, 2012	Patent application filed covering use in cancer, sepsis and autoimmune diseases; available for licensing	Wu, S. *et al. J. Biol. Chem.*; published online April 24, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M112.343848 **Contact:** Zihai Li, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, S.C. e-mail: zihai@musc.edu