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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hematology				
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	CXC chemokine receptor 4 (CXCR4; NPY3R); chemokine CXC motif ligand 12 (CXCL12; SDF-1); CXCR7	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest inhibiting the CXCR4/CXCR7/SDF-1 signaling pathway could help treat or prevent hemolytic uremic syndrome following *Escherichia coli* infection. In human microvascular endothelial cells, exposure to an *E. coli*–derived shiga toxin, which could cause hemolytic uremic syndrome, resulted in greater expression of CXCR4, CXCR7 and SDF-1 than exposure to vehicle. In mice injected with the toxin, the CXCR4 antagonist Mozobil plerixafor partially restored kidney function and increased survival compared with saline. Next steps include measuring SDF-1 levels in infected individuals during an *E. coli* outbreak. Sanofi markets Mozobil to treat multiple myeloma (MM) and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL). ***SciBX*** **5(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.74** **Published online Jan. 19, 2012**	Unpatented; available for strategic partnerships	Petruzziello-Pellegrini, T.N. *et al.* *J. Clin. Invest.*; published online Jan. 9, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI57313 **Contact:** Philip A. Marsden, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: p.marsden@utoronto.ca