This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infections	Not applicable	Two studies suggest reactive oxygen species (ROS) production may not be the major contributor to bactericidal activity. Previous studies have suggested a unifying theory of antibiotic action in which induction of ROS leads to cell death. *In vitro*, ampicillin or norfloxacin killed *Escherichia coli* grown in anaerobic conditions at rates comparable to those for bacteria grown in aerobic conditions. In titration experiments using different quantities of norfloxacin in combination with an ROS-detecting dye, a correlation was not observed between ROS and antibacterial activity. Next steps include identifying new mechanisms that explain the bactericidal effects of antibiotics. EnBiotix Inc. is discovering compounds that increase production of ROS to treat bacterial infections. *SciBX* 6(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.292 Published online March 28, 2013	Patent and licensing status not applicable	Keren, I. *et al. Science*; published online March 8, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1232688 **Contact:** Kim Lewis, Northeastern University, Boston, Mass. e-mail: k.lewis@neu.edu Liu, Y. & Imlay, J.A. *Science*; published online March 8, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1232751 **Contact:** James A. Imlay, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Ill. e-mail: jimlay@illinois.edu