

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	Unknown	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified small molecule inhibitors of <i>trans</i> -translation that could help treat bacterial infections. <i>Trans</i> -translation, a process that uses transfer-messenger RNA (tmRNA) to repair stalled ribosomal complexes, is required for bacterial survival against stress. A high throughput screen of 663,000 compounds in <i>Escherichia coli</i> identified multiple lead small molecules that inhibited <i>trans</i> -translation. <i>In vitro</i> , the compounds inhibited the growth of multiple strains of pathogenic bacteria at low micromolar concentrations. Next steps include identifying the mechanism of action for the lead compounds and developing more potent derivatives.	Patent applications filed covering compounds with increased potency; available for licensing	Ramadoss, N.S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 3, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1302816110 Contact: Kenneth C. Keiler, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. e-mail: kkeiler@psu.edu
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