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This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Gram-negative bacterial infection	Capsular polysaccharide export protein (wza)	Cell culture studies identified a glycomimetic inhibitor of wza that could help treat Gram-negative bacterial infections. An *in vitro* screen identified an unnatural cyclic glycomimetic that could inhibit wza activity by blocking the protein's α-helix barrel. In a pathogenic strain of *Escherichia coli* cultured in human serum, the glycomimetic blocked the transport of a capsular polysaccharide and caused defects in the bacterial outer membrane, and it increased complement-mediated killing of bacteria compared with no treatment. Next steps include evaluating the glycomimetic in animal models. *SciBX* 6(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.761 Published online Aug. 1, 2013	Patent application filed; available for licensing from Isis Innovation Ltd. **Contact:** Mark Gostock, Isis Innovation Ltd., Oxford, U.K. e-mail: mark.gostock@isis.ox.ac.uk	Kong, L. *et al. Nat. Chem.*; published online June 30, 2013; doi:10.1038/nchem.1695 **Contact:** Hagen Bayley, University of Oxford Chemical Research Laboratory, Oxford, U.K. e-mail: hagan.bayley@chem.ox.ac.uk **Contact:** Benjamin G. Davis, same affiliation as above e-mail: ben.davis@chem.ox.ac.uk