This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Angiopoietin 2 (Ang2)	<p>Studies using human plasma suggest that antagonizing Ang2 could be useful for treating malaria. In patients with severe falciparum malaria, higher Ang2 concentrations were associated with greater parasite biomass and patient mortality. Higher Ang2 levels also correlated with less bioavailability of vascular endothelial nitric oxide (NO), a modulator of endothelial activation, and led to poor clinical outcomes in patients. Next steps could include preclinical testing of known Ang2 antagonists to treat malaria.</p> <p>CovX 060, an Ang2 antagonist from Pfizer Inc., is in Phase I testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 1(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.951 Published online Oct. 30, 2008</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Yeo, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 20, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0805782105</p> <p>Contact: Nicholas M. Anstey, Charles Darwin University, Darwin, Australia e-mail: anstey@menzies.edu.au</p>