This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Heme oxygenase decycling 1 (HMOX1; HO-1)	Studies in mice suggest that increasing HO-1 levels could help treat severe malaria. In a mouse model of malaria-induced hepatic failure, adenoviral overexpression of HO-1 led to complete protection (no deaths), whereas 75% of mice receiving vehicle ($p<0.001$) and 62.5% receiving control vector ($p<0.01$) died. Next steps include studying severe disease pathogenesis in patients infected with <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> . SciBX 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1281 Published online Aug. 27, 2009	Modulation of the HO-1 system for therapeutic applications, including the use of carbon monoxide, is covered by multiple patents; therapeutic use of carbon monoxide licensed to Ikaria Holdings Inc.	Seixas, E. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 17, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0903419106 Contact: Miguel P. Soares, Gulbenkian Science Institute, Oeiras, Portugal e-mail: mpsoares@igc.gulbenkian.pt