This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Trypanosome	Trypanosomal cathepsin B (TbcatB)	<p>A study in cell culture identified purine nitrile inhibitors of TbcatB that could help treat trypanosome infection. In trypanosome-infected mammalian cell lines, a series of purine nitrile TbcatB inhibitors had EC₅₀ values in the nanomolar to single-digit micromolar ranges. Next steps include ongoing evaluations of the compounds <i>in vivo</i>. Lampit nifurtimox, an antiprotozoal nitrofurane derivative from Bayer AG, is marketed to treat trypanosome infection. Tretazicar, an alkylating agent prodrug from Morvus Technology Ltd., is in preclinical development for the same indication.</p> <p>SciBX 2(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1478 Published online Oct. 8, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Mallari, J.P. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Sept. 21, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900908p</p> <p>Contact: R. Kiplin Guy, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: kip.guy@stjude.org</p>