This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Subtilisin-like serine protease (PfSUB1)	A study in human red blood cells suggests that targeting PfSUB1 could help treat malaria. In an <i>in vitro</i> parasite maturation assay, MRT12113, a small molecule inhibitor of the <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> protease PfSUB, prevented the proteolytic processing of parasite proteins needed for the release of <i>P. falciparum</i> from the red blood cells and blocked parasite maturation. Next steps include an ongoing collaboration with an undisclosed company to develop high throughput screens to identify other PfSUB1 inhibitors for malaria.	The U.K. Medical Research Council has sought patent protection for the PfSUB1 inhibitors used in this study; available for licensing	Koussis, K. <i>et al. EMBO J</i> ; published online Feb. 12, 2009; doi:10.1038/emboj.2009.22 Contact: Michael J. Blackman, National Institute for Medical Research, London, U.K. e-mail: mblackm@nimr.mrc.ac.uk
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