This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Unknown	<p>An SAR study identified artemisinin derivatives that may allow a one-dose treatment of malaria. In malaria-infected mice, a single 144 mg/kg dose of an artemisinin-derived dimeric trioxane sulfone carbamate cured malaria in all five mice with no side effects. A low dose of the compound plus the quinine analog mefloquine also resulted in full cures. Next steps include optimizing the trioxane sulfones to increase their potency and efficacy. Coartem artemether/lumefantrine, a fixed-dose artemisinin-based combination treatment from Novartis AG, is marketed to treat malaria. Pyramax pyronaridine artesunate, an artemisinin-based combination treatment from Shinpoong Pharmaceutical Co., is in Phase III testing for the same indication. Artesunate, a semi-synthetic derivative of artemisinin from Sigma-Tau S.p.A., is also in Phase III testing for malaria. Sigma-Tau and partner Pfizer Inc. are developing Eurartesim, a combination of dihydroartemisinin and piperazine that is in Phase III testing to treat malaria.</p> <p>SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.284 Published online Feb. 19, 2009</p>	<p>Patent application filed for use in malaria and cancer; available for licensing from The Johns Hopkins University Technology Transfer Office</p> <p>Contact: R. Keith Baker, The Johns Hopkins University Technology Transfer Office, Baltimore, Md. phone: 410-516-4563 e-mail: kbaker@jhmi.edu</p>	<p>Rosenthal, A.S. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 3, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801484v</p> <p>Contact: Gary H. Posner, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: ghp@jhu.edu</p>