This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Leishmaniasis	Not applicable	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that Kahalalide F analogs could help treat leishmaniasis. <i>In vitro</i>, micromolar concentrations of seven depsipeptide Kahalalide F analogs inhibited proliferation of <i>Leishmania</i> in both its promastigote and amastigote phases. Also <i>in vitro</i>, the analogs caused a concentration-dependent decrease in membrane permeability, depolarizing the parasite's plasma membrane and impairing the parasite's bioenergetic metabolism. Next steps could include testing the analogs in animal models of the infection.</p> <p>PharmaMar S.A.'s Kahalalide F is in Phase II testing to treat psoriasis and Phase I and II testing for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.627 Published online April 16, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Albericio, F. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i>; published online March 24, 2009; doi:10.1021/mp8001039</p> <p>Contact: Luis Rivas, Center for Biological Investigations, Madrid, Spain e-mail: luis.rivas@cib.csic.es</p> <p>Contact: Fernando Albericio, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: albericio@irbbarcelona.org</p>