This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> falcipain 2 (Pffalcipain 2; PF11_0165); Pffalcipain 3 (PF11_0162)	An <i>in vitro</i> study identified a falcipain inhibitor prodrug that releases two different inhibitors to help treat malaria. <i>In vitro</i> , the compounds released by the prodrug inhibited Pffalcipain2 and Pffalcipain3 with nanomolar IC ₅₀ values. In cell-based assays, the prodrug inhibited <i>P. falciparum</i> proliferation with an IC ₅₀ of 35 nM. Next steps could include medicinal chemistry optimization of the prodrug to improve drug release inside the parasite. SciBX 3(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1358 Published online Nov. 18, 2010	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Gibbons, P. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Oct. 27, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm1009567 Contact: Paul M. O'Neill, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool, U.K. e-mail: pmoneill@liverpool.ac.uk