This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Leishmaniasis	Receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that RTK inhibitors could boost the immune response to help treat Leishmaniasis infection. In <i>Leishmania donovani</i>-infected mice, the kinase inhibitor Sutent sunitinib prevented clinical symptoms such as enlargement of the spleen and remodeling of lymphoid tissue compared with vehicle. In infected mice, Sutent plus the leishmaniasis drug Lenocata led to better parasite clearance than either compound alone. Next steps include clinical testing of the Sutent plus Lenocata.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc. markets Sutent to treat renal and gastrointestinal cancers.</p> <p>VioQuest Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s Lenocata sodium stibogluconate is approved to treat Leishmaniasis.</p> <p>SciBX 3(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.377 Published online March 25, 2010</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Dalton, J. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online March 15, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI41281</p> <p>Contact: Paul M. Kaye, University of York, York, U.K. e-mail: pmk2@york.ac.uk</p>