This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> heat shock protein 90 (PF14_0417; hsp90)	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified therapeutic compounds that could be repurposed to help treat malaria. A screen of compound libraries and infected human cell-based assays identified three small molecules that were selective nanomolar inhibitors of <i>P. falciparum</i> hsp90 and reduced growth of drug-resistant strains of the parasite to levels lower than those in untreated controls. Treatment of infected cells with each compound plus chloroquine had a synergistic effect on reducing parasite growth compared with chloroquine treatment alone. Ongoing work includes testing the compounds in a mouse model of malaria infection.	Patent application filed by the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion; licensing status undisclosed	Shahinas, D. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online March 29, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm901796s Contact: Dylan R. Pillai, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: dylan.pillai@oahpp.ca
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