This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Trypanosome	<i>Trypanosoma brucei</i> N-myristoyltransferase (TbNMT)	<p>Studies in mice identified TbNMT inhibitors that could help treat African sleeping sickness. In cell culture, a pyrazole sulphonamide derivative blocked <i>T. brucei</i> proliferation, showing >200-fold selectivity for TbNMT over human NMT. In a mouse model of African sleeping sickness, the compound treated the disease with a minimal oral dose of 12.5 mg/kg and increased survival compared with no treatment. Next steps include additional rounds of compound optimization.</p> <p>Bayer AG markets Lampit nifurtimox, an antiprotozoal nitrofur derivative, to treat trypanosome infection.</p> <p>Morvus Technology Ltd's Tretazicar, an alkylating agent prodrug, is in preclinical testing for the indication.</p> <p>SciBX 3(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.469 Published online April 15, 2010</p>	Composition of matter and use of the inhibitors to treat various diseases patented; available for licensing	<p>Frearson, J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online April 1, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature08893</p> <p>Contact: Paul Wyatt, University of Dundee, Dundee, U.K. e-mail: p.g.wyatt@dundee.ac.uk</p>