This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Chagas disease	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> lanosterol 14 α -demethylase	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified tipifarnib analogs that could help treat Chagas disease. The anticancer compound tipifarnib inhibits lanosterol 14 α -demethylase in <i>T. cruzi</i> , the causal agent of Chagas disease. In mammalian host cells, the tipifarnib analogs inhibited <i>T. cruzi</i> lanosterol 14 α -demethylase at subnanomolar potencies. Next steps could include <i>in vivo</i> studies to determine the pharmacokinetics and toxicity of the lead compounds. Johnson & Johnson has Zarnestra tipifarnib in Phase III testing for various cancers. SciBX 3(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.586 Published online May 13, 2010	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Kraus, J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online April 29, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm9013136 Contact: Michael H. Gelb, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: gelb@chem.washington.edu Contact: Frederick S. Buckner, same affiliation as above e-mail: fbuckner@u.washington.edu