This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Clostridium; ebola; malaria	<i>Clostridium botulinum</i> toxin type A	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified 1,7-bis(aminoalkyl) diazachrysenes-based derivatives that could help treat botulism, malaria and ebola. <i>In vitro</i> , the derivatives inhibited <i>C. botulinum</i> toxin type A with micromolar IC ₅₀ values. In multiple strains of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> , the derivatives showed antimalarial activity with nanomolar IC ₅₀ values. In ebola-infected nonhuman primate kidney cells, the derivatives showed anti-ebola activity with single-digit micromolar IC ₅₀ values. Next steps include designing and synthesizing more potent analogs of the compounds. <i>SciBX</i> 4(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.225 Published online Feb. 24, 2011	Patented; available for licensing	Opsenica, I. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Jan. 25, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm100938u Contact: Sina Bavari, United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Frederick, Md. e-mail: sina.bavari@us.army.mil Contact: Bogdan A. Solaja, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia e-mail: bsolaja@chem.bg.ac.rs Contact: James C. Burnett, National Cancer Institute at Frederick, Frederick, Md. e-mail: burnettjames@mail.nih.gov