This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Not applicable	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified analogs of pactamycin that could help treat malaria. Pactamycin is an antibiotic that is toxic to mammalian cells. In biosynthetic and <i>in vitro</i> studies, the analogs were more potent inhibitors of chloroquine-sensitive and chloroquine-resistant <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> strains than the parent compound. In human colon cancer cells, the analogs showed 10%–30% less cytotoxicity than the parent compound. Next steps include studying the compounds in animal models and determining their mechanisms of action.</p> <p>SciBX 4(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.575 Published online May 19, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Lu, W. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online April 22, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2011.01.016 Contact: Taifo Mahmud, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore. e-mail: Taifo.Mahmud@oregonstate.edu</p>