This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Toxoplasmosis	PD-1 receptor (PDCD1; PD-1; CD279); programmed cell death 1 ligand 1 (CD274 molecule; PD-L1; B7-H1)	Studies in mice suggest blocking interactions between PD-1 and PD-L1 could help treat toxoplasmosis. In a mouse model of chronic <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> infection, injection of a PD-L1 antibody increased CD8 ⁺ T cell levels and mouse survival compared with injection of a control antibody. Next steps could include testing PD-L1 inhibition in other models of toxoplasmosis. At least four companies have PD-1-targeting compounds in Phase II testing or earlier for cancer.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Bhadra, R. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online May 16, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1015298108 Contact: Imtiaz A. Khan, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. e-mail: mtmixk@gwumc.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 4(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.630 Published online June 2, 2011				