This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Interferon- β (IFNB; IFN- β); interferon- α/β receptor 1 (IFNAR1); TANK-binding kinase 1 (TBK1); interferon regulatory factor 3 (IRF3); IRF7	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest blocking interferon signaling could help treat malaria infection. In cultured cells, addition of AT-rich <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> DNA induced IFN- β , whereas addition of vehicle did not. In a mouse model of malaria, animals with deficiency in <i>Ifnar1</i> , <i>Tbk1</i> or both <i>Irf3</i> and <i>Irf7</i> , all part of the interferon signaling pathway, had higher rates of survival than wild-type mice. Next steps include identifying the receptor for AT-rich DNA that mediates this signaling pathway. SciBX 4(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.911 Published online Aug. 18, 2011	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	Sharma, S. <i>et al. Immunity</i> ; published online Aug. 4, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2011.05.016 Contact: Katherine A. Fitzgerald, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Mass. e-mail: kate.fitzgerald@umassmed.edu Contact: Douglas T. Golenbock, same affiliation as above e-mail: douglas.golenbock@umassmed.edu