This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Leishmaniasis	Dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR); pteridine reductase (PTR1)	<p>Cell culture studies identified piperidine-pteridine-based PTR1 inhibitors that could help circumvent antifolate drug resistance associated with <i>Leishmania</i> infection. <i>Leishmania</i> can overcome DHFR inhibition by overexpressing PTR1. In two strains of <i>Leishmania</i>, members of the PTR1 inhibitor series increased pyrimethamine-mediated growth inhibition compared with pyrimethamine alone. Next steps include testing optimized versions of the identified PTR1 inhibitors in combination with DHFR inhibitors in mouse models.</p> <p>Pyrimethamine is a generic DHFR inhibitor used to treat protozoan infections.</p> <p>SciBX 5(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1007 Published online Sept. 27, 2012</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing from Tydock Pharma srl	<p>Cornona, P. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Aug. 14, 2012; doi:10.1021/jm300563f</p> <p>Contact: Maria Paola Costi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy e-mail: mariapaola.costi@unimore.it</p>