This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Unknown	<p>Mouse studies identified an artemisinin-derived thioacetal thiocarbonate that could be combined with mefloquine hydrochloride to help treat malaria. In <i>Plasmodium berghei</i>-infected mice, the thiocarbonate plus mefloquine led to a mean survival of 29.8 days compared with 16.5 days for the trioxane antimalarial drug artemether plus mefloquine. Next steps could include evaluating the artemisinin-derived thiocarbonate in models of <i>P. falciparum</i> infection.</p> <p>Coartem artemether/lumefantrine, a fixed-dose, artemisinin-based combination from Novartis AG, is marketed to treat malaria.</p> <p>SciBX 5(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.928 Published online Sept. 6, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Jacobine, A.M. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Aug. 14, 2012; doi:10.1021/jm3009986</p> <p>Contact: Gary H. Posner, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: ghp@jhu.edu</p>