This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Leishmaniasis	<i>Leishmania</i> hemoglobin receptor (HbR)	<p>Rodent studies suggest an HbR-based vaccine could protect against visceral Leishmaniasis. <i>Leishmania</i> use HbR to acquire exogenous heme, which is required for growth. DNA sequencing of multiple strains of <i>Leishmania</i> showed that HbR is highly conserved. In mouse and hamster models of <i>Leishmania</i> infection, immunization with HbR DNA decreased splenic and hepatic parasite burden and increased T cell proliferation and survival compared with no immunization. Next steps could include testing the vaccine in primates.</p> <p>Mologen AG and the Infectious Disease Research Institute have a DNA-based vaccine against leishmaniasis in Phase I testing.</p> <p>SciBX 6(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1133 Published online Oct. 17, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status unavailable	<p>Guha, R. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Sept. 11, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3006406 Contact: Amitabha Mukhopadhyay, Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata, India e-mail: amitabha@nii.res.in Contact: Syamal Roy, same affiliation as above e-mail: sroy@iicb.res.in</p>