This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> dihydroorotate dehydrogenase (PfDHODH)	<p>Mouse and <i>in vitro</i> studies identified dihydrothiophenone-derived inhibitors of PfDHODH that could be useful for treating malaria. In <i>in vitro</i> assays, the lead compound inhibited PfDHODH with an IC₅₀ of 6 nM and had more than 14,000-fold selectivity for the parasitic enzyme over the human homolog. In two <i>P. falciparum</i> strains, the lead compound inhibited parasite growth with IC₅₀ values of 15 or 18 nM. In mice, the lead compound had 40% oral bioavailability. Next steps include additional preclinical testing of the lead inhibitors as antimalarial agents.</p> <p>SciBX 6(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1192 Published online Oct. 31, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Xu, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Sept. 27, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm400938g Contact: Honglin Li, East China University of Science and Technology, Shanghai, China e-mail: hlli@ecust.edu.cn Contact: Yufang Xu, same affiliation as above e-mail: yfxu@ecust.edu.cn Contact: Lili Zhu, same affiliation as above e-mail: zhulfl@ecust.edu.cn</p>