This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Infectious disease	Protozoan signal peptide peptidase (SPP)	Cell culture studies suggest inhibiting protozoan SPP could help treat parasitic infections. <i>In vitro</i> , a small molecule protozoan SPP inhibitor blocked growth of three different parasites with nanomolar IC ₅₀ values without inhibiting host cell growth. Next steps include identifying additional SPP inhibitors in collaboration with the Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases and evaluating the compounds in mouse models. SciBX 6(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.14 Published online Jan. 10, 2013	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Harbut, M.B. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Dec. 11, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1216016110 Contact: Doron C. Greenbaum, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: dorong@upenn.edu