This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria; sepsis	HMG-CoA reductase	<p>Mouse studies suggest statins could help prevent malaria- and sepsis-associated cognitive dysfunction. In mouse models of malaria infection, the generic malaria drug chloroquine plus Mevacor lovastatin decreased neuroinflammation and cognitive impairment compared with chloroquine alone. In a mouse model of bacterial sepsis, antibiotics plus Mevacor decreased cognitive impairment compared with antibiotics alone. Next steps include starting clinical trials of statin drugs to prevent malaria or bacterial sepsis-associated cognitive impairment.</p> <p>Merck & Co. Inc. markets Mevacor, an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, to treat hypercholesterolemia and reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 6(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.58 Published online Jan. 24, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Reis, P.A. <i>et al. PLoS Pathog.</i>; published online Dec. 27, 2012; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1003099</p> <p>Contact: Patricia A. Reis, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</p> <p>e-mail: reispa@gmail.com</p>