This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Interferon α/β receptor 1 (IFNAR1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest stimulating a type I interferon response could help improve efficacy of malaria vaccination or treatment. In mice, infection with <i>Plasmodium berghei</i> stimulated transcription of genes in the liver associated with the type I interferon response. In the <i>P. berghei</i>-infected mice, hepatocyte-specific knockout of <i>Ifnar1</i> increased parasitic liver load compared with no knockout and accelerated transition to blood-stage infection. In mice, stimulation of the type I interferon response with HCV RNA prior to <i>P. berghei</i> infection decreased parasite load compared with no stimulation. Next steps include determining the effect of type I interferon on long-term protection after malaria vaccination.</p> <p>SciBX 7(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.118 Published online Jan. 30, 2014</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Liehl, P. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Dec. 22, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3424</p> <p>Contact: Maria M. Mota, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal e-mail: mmota@fm.ul.pt</p>