This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Not applicable	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies have identified a new class of antiparasitic compounds that could help treat malaria. Chemical synthesis and <i>in vitro</i> testing of amino benzimidazole analogs identified several compounds that inhibited growth of the asexual blood stage of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>, including drug-resistant strains, at nanomolar IC₅₀ values without causing cytotoxicity in a mammalian cell line. In a humanized mouse model of malaria, a lead member of the series decreased parasitemia in a dose-dependent manner with potency comparable to that of the generic antimalarial drug chloroquine. Next steps could include optimizing and testing the compounds against drug-resistant strains of <i>P. falciparum</i>.</p> <p>SciBX 7(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.829 Published online July 24, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Hameed P, S. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online June 10, 2014; doi:10.1021/jm500535j Contact: Sreekanth Ramachandran, AstraZeneca India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, India e-mail: ramachandran.sreekanth@gmail.com Contact: Vasam Sambandamurthy, same affiliation as above e-mail: vasan2005@gmail.com</p>