This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> apical membrane antigen 1 (ama1); <i>P. falciparum</i> rhoptry neck protein 2 (Pfron2)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest vaccination with a <i>P. falciparum</i> ama1-Pfron2 fusion peptide could help prevent malaria. In mice, immunization with the <i>P. yoelii</i> ama1-Pfron2 fusion peptide protected all animals from lethal <i>P. yoelii</i> challenge, whereas immunization with either peptide alone did not. In a growth inhibition assay, IgG from rats immunized with the <i>P. falciparum</i> ama1-Pfron2 fusion peptide decreased <i>P. falciparum</i> merozoite invasion compared with IgG from ama1-immunized animals. Next steps include assessing the safety of the vaccine candidate in humans.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Srinivasan, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 23, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1409928111 Contact: Louis H. Miller, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Rockville, Md. e-mail: lmiller@niaid.nih.gov Contact: Prakash Srinivasan, same affiliation as above e-mail: srinivasanp@niaid.nih.gov
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