

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Leishmaniasis	Unknown	<p><i>In vitro</i> screens and structure-activity relationship studies identified a series of paullone compounds that could potentially treat <i>Leishmania donovani</i> infection. The 2-(3-aryl-3-oxopropen-1-yl)-9-<i>tert</i>-butyl-paullone class of compounds inhibited parasitic growth at both early and late stages of infection with minimal toxicity to human host cells. Next steps include optimizing the ADME profiles of the compounds and testing them in animal models.</p> <p>No fewer than seven companies have leishmaniasis therapeutics in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed.</p>	The Technical University of Braunschweig and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have patented the compounds to treat leishmaniasis; available for licensing	Reichwald, C. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Jan. 11, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm7012166 Contact: Conrad Kunick, Technical University of Braunschweig, Institute for Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Braunschweig, Germany e-mail: c.kunick@tu-braunschweig.de