

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Schistosomiasis	Thioredoxin glutathione reductase (TGR)	<p>A study in cultured worms and worm-infected mice suggests that oxadiazole 2-oxide and phosphinic amide compounds could be useful for treating schistosomiasis. The disease is caused by parasitic worms of the genus <i>Schistosoma</i> that produce TGR, an enzyme that is essential for avoiding host immune response. The compounds showed activity against TGR and against cultured <i>S. mansoni</i> worms. In <i>S. mansoni</i>-infected mice, one of the compounds, furoxan, significantly reduced worm burden and hepatomegaly compared with those in infected, untreated controls ($p < 0.0001$). The researchers are now testing about 40 derivatives for antiparasitic activity.</p> <p>EpiCept Corp.'s EP128504, a 3,5-diaryl-oxadiazole, is in preclinical development for cancer.</p>	U.S. patent application filed covering use of furoxan to treat or prevent schistosomiasis; available for licensing	<p>Sayed, A. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online March 16, 2007; doi:10.1038/nm1737</p> <p>Contact: David Williams, Illinois State University, Normal, Ill. e-mail: dlwilli@ilstu.edu</p>