

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
Cerebral malaria	Complement 5 (C5); C5a; C5a receptor	A study in mice suggests that antagonizing C5a or the C5a receptor could be useful for treating or preventing cerebral malaria. In mouse models of <i>Plasmodium berghei</i> -induced cerebral malaria, mouse strains deficient in the C5a precursor C5 had better survival than those that expressed C5. In mice that expressed C5 and were thus susceptible to cerebral malaria, an anti-C5a receptor antibody significantly protected mice from <i>P. berghei</i> infection compared with what was seen in mice that received control serum ( $p=0.0022$ ). Ongoing studies are examining C5a levels in human infections of uncomplicated and cerebral malaria.	Not patented; unlicensed	Patel, S. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i> ; published online April 21, 2008; doi:10.1084/jem.20072248 <b>Contact:</b> Kevin C. Kain, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: <a href="mailto:kevin.kain@uhn.on.ca">kevin.kain@uhn.on.ca</a>