

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
Chagas disease	Cruzain	An SAR study identified a small molecule irreversible inhibitor of cruzain that may be useful for treating Chagas disease. Cruzain is a cysteine protease of <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> , which causes Chagas disease. Cell culture studies of J744 macrophages infected with <i>T. cruzi</i> showed that treatment with 2,3,5,6-tetrafluorophenoxymethyl ketone inhibitor was comparable to the peptide-based vinyl sulfone in safely eliminating the parasitic infection. Next steps include testing the compound in animal models of Chagas disease.	Patent pending for nonpeptidic irreversible cruzain inhibitor to treat Chagas disease; unavailable for licensing	Brak, K. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online April 25, 2008; doi:10.1021/ja710254m <b>Contact:</b> Jonathan A. Ellman, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. e-mail: <a href="mailto:jellman@uclink.berkeley.edu">jellman@uclink.berkeley.edu</a> <b>Contact:</b> James H. McKerrow, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: <a href="mailto:jmck@cgl.ucsf.edu">jmck@cgl.ucsf.edu</a>