

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Leishmaniasis	Not applicable	<p>An SAR study characterized a series of cycloalkylidene-substituted ether phospholipid derivatives that could be used to treat leishmaniasis. Some analogs were 1.5–62 times more active than Impavido miltefosine against <i>Leishmania infantum</i>. The least cytotoxic analog had the highest potency (IC₅₀ of 0.7 μM) against intracellular <i>L. infantum</i> and had low hemolytic activity. Next steps include preclinical testing of the derivatives.</p> <p>Aeterna Zentaris Inc. markets Impavido miltefosine, an alkyl-phosphocholine analog that inhibits CTP phosphocholine cytidylyl transferase, to treat leishmaniasis. No fewer than seven companies have leishmaniasis therapeutics in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed.</p>	MAK Scientific Corp. has U.S. patents for antiprotozoal ring-substituted phospholipids to treat protozoal diseases; unlicensed	<p>Calogeropoulou, T. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Jan. 26, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm701166b</p> <p>Contact: Effie Scoulica, School of Medicine, University of Crete, Heraklion, Greece e-mail: scoulica@med.uoc.gr</p> <p>Contact: Theodora Calogeropoulou, Institute of Organic and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens, Greece e-mail: tcalog@eie.gr</p>