This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria (strains *Plasmodium berghei NK65* (*Pb NK65*) and *Plasmodium berghei ANKA* (*PbA*))	Histamine H1 receptor; histamine H2 receptor; histidine decarboxylase (HDC)	Data from mouse malaria models suggest that antihistamines could be used to prevent malaria infection. Increased plasma histamine levels were previously associated with severity of malaria infection in humans and in some animal models. Here, HDC knockout mice, which are unable to produce histamine, lived longer than wild-type mice following a lethal challenge with malaria strains *Pb NK65* and *PbA* (>45 days vs. 25 days and 26 days vs. 11 days, respectively). HDC knockouts infected with *PbA*, which causes cerebral malaria, also had improved blood-brain barrier integrity and decreased CNS T cell load compared with infected wild-type mice. The researchers would not disclose their next steps.	International patents applied for covering therapeutic targeting of histamine receptors and histamine-associated metabolic pathways to treat malaria; available for licensing	Beghdadi, W. *et al. J. Exp. Med.*; published online Jan. 28, 2008; doi:10.1084/jem.20071548 **Contact:** Salaheddine Mécheri, Unit of Early Responses to Parasites and Immunopathology, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France e-mail: smecheri@pasteur.fr