This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Leishmaniasis	Not applicable	A mouse study suggests that adding sand fly–specific antigens to current vaccines against *Leishmania major* may be useful for increasing vaccine protection. Sand flies, which can carry the *L. major* parasite, have salivary proteins that promote neutrophil recruitment and inflammation. Mice treated with neutrophil-depleting antibodies prior to *L. major* exposure from sand flies had significantly fewer infections than controls (p=0.02 at 1 week; p=0.002 at 4 weeks). Intravital microscopy and flow cytometry studies showed that *L. major* parasites phagocytosed by neutrophils remained viable and initiated infection. Next steps include determining how neutrophils at *L. major* infection sites affect vaccine efficacy.	Use of sand fly salivary proteins in a leishmaniasis vaccine is patented; available for licensing through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	Peters, N.C. *et al. Science*; published online Aug. 14, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1159194 **Contact:** David Sacks, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: dsacks@nih.gov **Contact:** Jackson G. Egen, same affiliation as above e-mail: jegen@niaid.nih.gov