

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Genome of <i>Plasmodium vivax</i> to aid development of new therapies and diagnostics for malaria	<p>The complete genome sequence of <i>P. vivax</i> could help guide the development of new therapies and diagnostics for malaria. In a genomic comparison study, <i>P. vivax</i> had genetic content and metabolic pathways similar to <i>P. falciparum</i>. The study also identified additional genes in the <i>P. vivax</i> genome that suggest the existence of alternative erythrocyte invasion pathways. Next steps include developing a method to culture <i>P. vivax in vitro</i> and sequencing the genomes of additional <i>P. vivax</i> parasites from different geographic regions to identify sequence variation.</p> <p>Malarone atovaquone/proguanil, an oral combination of two compounds that inhibit two different pathways of pyrimidine synthesis from GlaxoSmithKline plc, is marketed to treat malaria.</p> <p>Coartem artemether-lumefantrine, a fixed-dose artemisinin-based combination treatment from Novartis AG, is marketed for the same indication.</p> <p>At least 13 other companies have malaria therapeutics in Phase III or earlier.</p> <p>SciBX 1(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.984 Published online Nov. 6, 2008</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Carlton, J.M. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Oct. 20, 2008; doi:10.1038/nature07327</p> <p>Contact: Jane Carlton, New York University Medical Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: jane.carlton@nyumc.org</p>