This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Plasmeprin (<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>)	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified a plasmeprin inhibitor that could aid in the development of new treatments for malaria. An affinity-based screen identified a potent inhibitor of all four of <i>P. falciparum</i> 's plasmeprins, which help the parasite absorb nutrients for growth and development. In parasite-infected red blood cell cultures, the inhibitor blocked parasite development compared with mock compound. Next steps could include determining whether the inhibitor targets proteins other than plasmeprins in <i>P. falciparum</i> .	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Liu, K. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online Sept. 25, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200903747 Contact: Shao Q. Yao, National University of Singapore, Singapore e-mail: chmyaosq@nus.edu.sg
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