This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Cryptosporidium	<i>Cryptosporidium parvum</i> nonspecific polyprenyl pyrophosphate synthase (CpNPPPS)	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> study suggests that nitrogen-containing bisphosphonates (N-BPs) may be useful for treating <i>C. parvum</i> infections. In cell culture, three N-BPs were identified that inhibited <i>C. parvum</i> growth with IC₅₀ values in the low micromolar ranges. In an enzyme activity assay, N-BP inhibited CpNPPPS. Next steps could include evaluating the use of N-BPs in animal models of <i>C. parvum</i> infection.</p> <p>At least seven bisphosphonates are marketed to treat various musculoskeletal conditions including osteoporosis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.99 Published online Jan. 22, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing information undisclosed	<p>Artz, J.D. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Dec. 19, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2008.10.017 Contact: Raymond Hui, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: Raymond.hui@utoronto.ca uk</p>