This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Not applicable	An *in vitro* and mouse study suggests that a spiroindolone compound may help treat malaria. In a range of drug-sensitive and drug-resistant *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax* lab strains and clinical isolates, the optimized spiroindolone NITD609 had low nanomolar blood-stage parasite killing activity with no detectable cytotoxicity against human cell lines. In *P. berghei*–infected mice, a single oral dose completely cleared infection, whereas the same dose of artesunate, artemether, chloroquine or mefloquine led to continued infection. Next steps include further regulatory pharmacological and safety evaluations potentially followed by Phase I clinical testing later this year. NITD609 is in preclinical development at Novartis AG. Coartem artemether/lumefantrine, a fixed-dose artemisinin-based combination from Novartis, is marketed to treat malaria. ASAQ artesunate/amodiaquine, a fixed-dose combination of artesunate and amodiaquine from sanofi-aventis Group, is marketed to treat malaria. Chloroquine is a generic approved to treat malaria. ***SciBX*** **3(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1152** **Published online Sept. 30, 2010**	Patented; unavailable for licensing	Rottmann, M. *et al. Science*; published online Sept. 3, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1193225 **Contact:** Thierry T. Diagana, Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases, Singapore e-mail: thierry.diagana@novartis.com **Contact:** Elizabeth A. Winzeler, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: winzeler@scripps.edu