SciBX
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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	*Plasmodium falciparum* M17 leucyl aminopeptidase (M17)	*In vitro* studies identified the crystal structure of M17, which could be useful for rational design of malaria therapeutics. *P. falciparum*, the parasite that causes malaria, expresses the M17 and M1 leucyl aminopeptidases, which are required for parasite viability in red blood cells. X-ray crystallization studies of M17 with and without inhibitors revealed the structure of the enzyme's active site. Next steps include screening and optimizing additional aminopeptidase inhibitors. *SciBX* 3(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.190 Published online Feb. 11, 2010	Provisional patent application filed covering the crystal structure of M17 and its use as a structural model; unavailable for licensing	McGowan, S. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Jan. 4, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0911813107 **Contact:** James C. Whisstock, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia e-mail: James.Whisstock@med.monash.edu.au