

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
Malaria	Not applicable	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies identified a class of spiroindolones that could help treat malaria. In a wild-type strain of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>, the most potent compound had antimalarial activity with an IC<sub>50</sub> of 0.2 nM. In mice infected with <i>P. berghei</i>, oral delivery of the compound increased survival compared with delivery of chloroquine or an artemisinin derivative. Next steps could include identifying the molecular target of the compounds. Chloroquine and artemisinin are generics approved to treat malaria.</p> <p>Coartem artemether/lumefantrine, a fixed-dose artemisinin-based combination treatment from Novartis AG, is marketed to treat malaria.</p> <p>ASAQ artesunate/amodiaquine, a fixed-dose combination of artesunate and amodiaquine from sanofi-aventis Group, is marketed to treat malaria.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.867</b>  <b>Published online July 22, 2010</b></p>	Patented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Yeung, B.K.S. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online June 22, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm100410f</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Bryan K.S. Yeung, Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases, Chromos, Singapore  e-mail: <a href="mailto:bryan.yeung@novartis.com">bryan.yeung@novartis.com</a></p>