

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> reticulocyte-binding protein homolog 5 (PfRh5); basigin Ok blood group (BSG; EMMPRIN; CD147)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest a vaccine targeting the malarial antigen PfRh5 could be useful for preventing blood-stage malaria infection. In an <i>in vitro</i> screen, PfRh5 bound the receptor BSG on erythrocytes, suggesting that the PfRh5-BSG interaction is necessary for the parasite to invade red blood cells and trigger clinical symptoms. In cell culture, anti-BSG mAbs or small hairpin RNA against BSG decreased invasion compared with isotype mAbs and scrambled shRNA controls. Next steps include designing a PfRh5-based vaccine to neutralize the PfRh5-BSG interaction in patients with malaria.	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	Crosnier, C. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Nov. 9, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10606 Contact: Julian Rayner, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: jr9@sanger.ac.uk Contact: Gavin J. Wright, same affiliation as above e-mail: gw2@sanger.ac.uk
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