This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Infectious disease	Ribosomal 50S subunit	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> study identified analogs of macrolide antibiotics that could have better efficacy and decreased toxicity in treating parasitic infections. In cell-based assays of <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> and <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>, azithromycin analogs had greater antiparasitic activity and lower antibacterial activity than the azithromycin parent molecule. Next steps include conducting additional medicinal chemistry optimization and testing the compounds in animal models of <i>Plasmodium</i> infection.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc.'s Zithromax azithromycin is marketed for bacterial infection and is in Phase III testing for malaria.</p> <p>SciBX 4(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.429 Published online April 14, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Lee, Y. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 23, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm101593u</p> <p>Contact: Chaitan Khosla, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: khosla@stanford.edu</p>