This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	ATPase Ca ⁺⁺ transporting plasma membrane 4 (ATP2B4; PMCA4); MARVEL domain containing 3 (MARVELD3)	<p>Genomewide association studies identified two loci associated with risk of severe malaria that could become drug targets. In 1,325 cases of severe malaria and 828 unaffected controls, rs4951074 in <i>ATP2B4</i>, which encodes the main calcium pump on erythrocytes, was associated with reduced risk for the severe form of the disease. In this cohort, the intergenic SNP rs2334880 near <i>MARVELD3</i>, which encodes a tight-junction protein of epithelial and vascular endothelial cells, was associated with increased risk for severe disease. Next steps could include validation of the associations in larger patient cohorts.</p> <p>SciBX 5(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.952 Published online Sept. 13, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Timmann, C. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Aug. 15, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11334 Contact: Christian Timmann, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Hamburg, Germany e-mail: timmann@bnitm.de</p>