This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Chagas disease; leishmaniasis	Tubulin	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies have identified a class of tubulin inhibitors that could help treat parasitic infections. Chemical synthesis and <i>in vitro</i> testing of sulfonamide analogs identified several tubulin inhibitors that killed <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> and four <i>Leishmania</i> species at low nanomolar IC₅₀ values. In a mouse model of Chagas disease, one lead compound decreased blood levels of <i>T. cruzi</i> by 72% and increased survival compared with no treatment. In a mouse model of leishmaniasis, another lead compound decreased the burden of <i>L. infantum</i> in the spleen and liver by 96% compared with no treatment. Next steps could include lead optimization of the two compounds.</p> <p>SciBX 6(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1322 Published online Dec. 5, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Galiana-Roselló, C. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Oct. 23, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm4006127 Contact: M. Eugenia González-Rosende, Cardinal Herrera University, Valencia, Spain e-mail: eugenia@uch.ceu.es</p>