

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	<i>Plasmodium</i> phosphatidylinositol 4-kinase III β (<i>Plasmodium</i> PI4KIII β)	<i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies suggest targeting <i>Plasmodium</i> PI4KIII β could help treat malaria. In cell-, mouse- or rhesus macaque-based assays monitoring different stages of the <i>Plasmodium</i> life cycle, optimized imidazopyrazine compounds killed liver stage, asexual blood stage and sexual stage <i>Plasmodium</i> species. Genetic and biochemical analysis showed that the compounds inhibited <i>Plasmodium</i> PI4KIII β but not related human proteins. Next steps include further improving the potency of <i>Plasmodium</i> PI4KIII β inhibitors and testing them in rhesus macaques.	Patent application filed by Novartis AG covering the compounds; unavailable for licensing	McNamara, C.W. <i>et al.</i> <i>Nature</i> ; published online Nov. 27, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12782 Contact: Elizabeth A. Winzeler, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: ewinzeler@ucsd.edu Contact: Thierry T. Diagana, Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases, Singapore e-mail: thierry.diagana@novartis.com
		SciBX 6(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1393 Published online Dec. 19, 2013		