This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Peroxisome proliferation–activated receptor-γ (PPARG; PPARγ)	Studies in mice and human samples suggest combining PPARγ agonists with antimalarial therapy could improve outcomes in cerebral malaria. In a mouse model of cerebral malaria, antimalarial drugs plus the PPARγ agonist Avandia rosiglitazone increased brain levels of neuroprotectants including brain-derived neurotrophic factor (Bdnf) compared with the antimalarial alone. In this mouse model, the combination improved survival and prevented infection-induced cognitive impairments and brain atrophy. In patients who have uncomplicated *Plasmodium falciparum* infection, the antimalarial regimen plus rosiglitazone decreased inflammatory markers and increased BDNF in plasma compared with antimalarial drugs alone. Next steps include clinical testing in patients with cerebral malaria. GlaxoSmithKline plc markets Avandia rosiglitazone to treat diabetes. *SciBX* 7(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.405 Published online April 10, 2014	Findings unpatented; available for partnering	Serghides, L. *et al. PLoS Pathog.*; published online March 6, 2014; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1003980 **Contact:** Lena Serghides, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: lena.serghides@utoronto.ca