In-class discussion questions for 7-31-13
Prepared by Emily Boevers, Courtney Clough, and Avrey Novak

Paper: “In vitro and in vivo antimalarial activity of peptidomimetic protein farnesyltransferase inhibitors with improved membrane permeability” (Dora Carrico et al.)

1. Why is prenylation/farnesylation a good target for malaria treatment? Are there any concerns that this would not be a good target?

2. What are the clinical applications of a drug that inhibits P. falciparum growth but does not kill the parasite?

3. Recall your homework BQMOC of Figure 2 and explain the difference between Compounds 10-16 and Compound 17 as seen in the Western Blot results. Now refer to Figure 3; what do the authors think accounts for the differences in effectiveness of the compounds?

4. Where does this research fall in the drug pipeline? If you were in this lab, what studies would you pursue next?