

The role of MORN1 in the intraerythrocytic life cycle of *Plasmodium falciparum*

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Due to increasing drug resistance *Plasmodium falciparum*, a search for novel drug targets is of great importance. In this respect, the nuclear division cycles of the malaria parasite are of particular interest, since they differ from traditional mitosis in several aspects. Thus, gaining deeper insights into the parasite mitosis, its underlying dynamics and the involved proteins may reveal an entire array of novel targets. In this respect, the membrane occupation and recognition nexus protein (MORN1) which is conserved among Apicomplexa may be a promising candidate. In *Toxoplasma gondii*, MORN1 is associated with the spindle poles and the Inner Membrane Complex (IMC). Overexpression of TgMORN1 results in serious defects in nuclear segregation. In *P. falciparum*, MORN1 has been found to be solely expressed in schizonts suggesting a function during mitosis. To further elucidate MORN1 function in *P. falciparum*, a highly purified anti-PfMORN1-antibodies were used for stage