Dashun Xu* (dxu@math.siu.edu), 1245 Lincoln Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901, and Zhilan Feng, 150 N. University Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2067. On the role of age-targeted treatments in the evolution of drug resistant schistosome.

Recent biological evidence shows that the fitness of schistosome parasites in definitive hosts may be inversely related to their fitness in intermediate hosts. Using the evidence we study age-targeted treatments of human hosts on how drug-resistant parasites may evolve. The dynamics of the parasite population is basically governed by a system of ordinary differential and integral equations, and the existence and stability of the boundary equilibria for this system are used to infer the impact of age-targeted treatments on the evolutionary dynamics of schistosome parasites. (Received August 04, 2008)