This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Inflammation	Hepatitis A virus cellular receptor 2 (Tim-3; HAVCR2)	<p>A study of cells cultured from patients suggests that inhibiting Tim-3 on T cells may be useful for treating HIV-1 infection. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from HIV-1 patients had a higher frequency of Tim-3-expressing T cells than PBMCs from uninfected patients. Also, Tim-3 expression on T cells from HIV patients correlated with disease progression. Moreover, the T cells failed to produce cytokines or proliferate in response to antigen. Treatment of cultured PBMCs from HIV patients using a soluble Tim-3 decoy receptor restored proliferation and increased cytokine production in the T cells. Next steps include validating Tim-3 as a potential HIV target in animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 1(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1052 Published online Dec. 4, 2008</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering treatment of HIV and other chronic viral infections; available for licensing from the University of Toronto Contact: Marilee Krinsky, University of Toronto e-mail: marilee.krinsky@utoronto.ca</p>	<p>Jones, R.B. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Nov. 10, 2008; doi:10.1084/jem.20081398 Contact: Mario Ostrowski, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: mario.ostrowski@gmail.com Contact: Brad Jones, same affiliation as above e-mail: brad.jones@utoronto.ca</p>