This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV	Gag; adenovirus serotype 5 (Ad5); Ad26; Ad35	Studies in macaques suggest that HIV vaccination regimens involving a heterologous Ad-gag prime-boost combination could control viral loads better than regimens involving a homologous prime-boost. Macaques receiving a heterologous regimen of Ad26-gag as the prime and Ad5-gag as the boost had greater decreases in viral loads and AIDS-related mortality than macaques receiving Ad35-gag/Ad5-gag or the homologous regimen Ad5-gag/Ad5-gag. Further work will clarify whether the results in the Ad26-gag/Ad5-gag cohort resulted from the heterologous regimen, the use of Ad26 or both and will evaluate the possibility of using heterologous vaccine regimens not based on Ad5. At least two companies—Crucell N.V. and GenVec Inc.—have adenovirus-based HIV vaccines in preclinical or clinical development to prevent or treat HIV infection. At least 16 other companies are developing HIV vaccines based on other vectors. SciBX 1(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1077 Published online Dec. 11, 2008	Undisclosed	Liu, J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Nov. 9, 2008; doi:10.1038/nature07469 Contact: Dan Barouch, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: dbarouch@bidmc.harvard