

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
HIV/AIDS	Adenovirus serotype 5 (Ad5)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that in adenovirus-based HIV vaccines, the choice of adenoviral serotype is crucial to immune stimulation and avoidance of HIV amplification. In cocultures of human dendritic cells (DCs) and T cells, exposure to a combination of Ad5 vector and Ad5-specific T cells from human serum stimulated DC maturation and subsequent production of Ad5-specific cytotoxic T cells. Vector or T cells alone did not elicit the same response. In individuals treated with Ad5-based HIV vaccines, pre-existing Ad5 immunity could trigger higher levels of T cells, the target cells for HIV infection, and thus could explain the increased risk of contracting HIV in those people. Ongoing studies should characterize which Ad5 vector sequences stimulate pre-existing Ad5 immunity and identify alternative adenoviral serotypes to design vectors that may help bypass pre-existing immunity. Crucell N.V. has an Ad-based vaccine in preclinical development to prevent or treat HIV infection.</p> <p>Vaxin Inc. has an Ad-based vaccine in clinical development to prevent influenza infection.</p> <p><b>SciBX 1(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1106</b> Published online Dec. 18, 2008</p>	Unpatented	<p>Perreau, M. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Nov. 3, 2008; doi:10.1084/jem.20081786</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Eric J. Kremer, National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Montpellier, France e-mail: <a href="mailto:eric.kremer@igmm.cnrs.fr">eric.kremer@igmm.cnrs.fr</a></p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Giuseppe Pantaleo, University Hospital Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland e-mail: <a href="mailto:giuseppe.pantaleo@chuv.ch">giuseppe.pantaleo@chuv.ch</a></p>