

### This week in therapeutics

| Indication                | Target/marker/<br>pathway             | Summary  | Licensing status                          | Publication and contact<br>information  |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Infectious disease</b> |                                       |  |   |   |
| HIV/AIDS                  | Programmed cell death 1 (PDCD1; PD-1) | <p>A study in macaques suggests that blocking PD-1 could be useful for treating HIV. In macaques with simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV), PD-1 antibodies led to higher levels of SIV-specific cytotoxic T lymphocytes, less viremia, and significantly better survival compared with what was seen in mock-treated controls (100% survival at day 150 post-treatment vs. 20%, <math>p=0.001</math>). Next steps include developing humanized PD-1 antibodies and investigating the therapeutic potential of targeting PD-1 ligands. Medarex Inc. and Ono Pharmaceuticals Co. Ltd. are jointly developing MDX-1106 (ONO-4538), a humanized PD-1 antibody that is in Phase I trials to treat cancer.</p> <p><b>SciBX 1(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1107</b><br/>Published online Dec. 18, 2008</p> | Patent pending; unavailable for licensing | <p>Velu, V. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Dec. 10, 2008;<br/>doi:10.1038/nature07662<br/><b>Contact:</b> Rama Rao Amara, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.<br/>e-mail:<br/><a href="mailto:ramara@emory.edu">ramara@emory.edu</a></p> |