This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	CD4; HIV gp120	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that a heparan sulfate dodecasaccharide (HS)-linked CD4 peptide could help treat HIV. <i>In vitro</i>, the peptide bound gp120 at the CD4 recognition site. Also <i>in vitro</i>, the peptide inhibited replication of HIV-1 strains at low nanomolar concentrations. Ongoing efforts involve developing a simplified synthesis for the CD4-HS molecule and analyzing the antiviral efficacy of the molecule in animal models of HIV.</p> <p>At least six companies have compounds targeting gp120 or CD4 in clinical and preclinical testing to treat HIV.</p> <p>SciBX 2(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1349 Published online Sept. 10, 2009</p>	Patent application filed for the mimetic; available for licensing for the treatment of AIDS	<p>Lorat-Jacob, H. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Sept. 6, 2009; doi:10.1038/nchembio.207</p> <p>Contact: Hugues Lortat-Jacob, University Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, France e-mail: hugues.lortat-jacob@ibs.fr</p>