This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	Tripartite motif- containing 5 (TRIM5); cyclophilin A	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that a TRIM5-cyclophilin A fusion protein could help treat HIV infection. The fusion protein, called hT5Cyp, is similar to a fusion protein that Aotus monkeys produce to protect themselves from HIV-1 infection. In cultured human macrophages and T cells, hT5Cyp prevented HIV-1 infection. In mice challenged with HIV-1, engraftment with human CD4 ⁺ T cells expressing hT5Cyp led to lower levels of virus in blood and lymphoid organs and better maintenance of protective human CD4 ⁺ T cells than engraftment with control cells. Next steps include developing vectors for gene therapy delivery of hT5Cyp to hematopoietic stem cells.	Columbia University filed a patent on the Aotus monkey fusion gene and has submitted documents for a patent application covering the human fusion gene; available for licensing	Neagu, M. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Sept. 8, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI39354 Contact: Jeremy Luban, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland e-mail: jeremy.luban@unige.ch
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