This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	HIV gp41	SAR studies identified a series of furans that could help treat HIV infection. HIV-1 gp41 inhibitors were chemically modified to produce a series of 2-aryl 5-(4-oxo-3-phenethyl-2-thioxothiazolidinylidenemethyl)furans. In a human T cell line, the compounds had more than 20-fold better potency at preventing HIV-1 replication than the parent gp41 inhibitors. Next steps include improving the physicochemical properties and therapeutic profiles of the compounds. Roche markets Fuzeon enfuvirtide, a viral fusion inhibitor targeting HIV gp41, to treat HIV. Myriad Genetics Inc.'s MPI-451936, a viral fusion inhibiting HIV gp41, is in preclinical testing to treat HIV. SciBX 2(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1413 Published online Sept. 24, 2009	Patent application filed; IP belongs to the New York Blood Center and is available for licensing	Katritzky, A. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Sept. 11, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900450n Contact: Alan R. Katritzky, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla. e-mail: Katritzky@chem.ufl.edu Contact: Asim K. Debnath, New York Blood Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: adebnath@nybloodcenter.org Contact: Shibo Jiang, same affiliation as above e-mail: sjiang@nybloodcenter.org