This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	HIV gag polyprotein	<p>Studies in macaques suggest that HIV vaccines based on vectors that trigger persistent effector memory T cell responses could decrease the risk of disease following exposure. In macaques, a cytomegalovirus (CMV) vector expressing simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) proteins elicited a persistent population of effector memory T cells that targeted the virus. In macaques immunized with the vector, a median of 16 viral challenges was needed to establish a systemic infection compared with 12 for unvaccinated controls. Also, 4 of 12 vaccinated macaques were uninfected over the course of viral challenges, whereas all unvaccinated controls eventually developed systemic infection. Next steps include constructing a human homolog of the CMV vector for Phase I studies.</p> <p>At least 18 companies are developing vector-based HIV vaccines.</p> <p>SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.281 Published online Feb. 19, 2009</p>	Patent application filed for use in HIV and tuberculosis; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Hansen, S.G. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 15, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1935</p> <p>Contact: Louis J. Picker, Oregon Health & Science University, Beaverton, Ore. e-mail: pickerl@ohsu.edu</p>