This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	HIV gp120	<p>Studies of serum from HIV patients suggest that vaccines targeting multiple gp120 viral epitopes could provide effective protection against HIV infection. Analysis of antibodies from six HIV patients without overt symptoms showed that the antibodies targeted a broad distribution of HIV gp120 epitopes. <i>In vitro</i>, combinations of the anti-gp120 antibodies, but not any one specific antibody, mimicked the neutralizing activity of the original patients' sera. Next steps could include determining how competitive binding between neutralizing and non-neutralizing anti-gp120 antibodies affects protection against specific strains of HIV.</p> <p>At least 10 companies have vaccines in preclinical to early-stage clinical testing to prevent HIV infection.</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.456 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Scheid, J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online March 15, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature07930</p> <p>Contact: Michel Nussenzweig, The Rockefeller University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: nussen@mail.rockefeller.edu</p>