This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	HIV gp41	<p>A cholesterol derivative of the viral fusion inhibitor C34 may increase the inhibitor's stability and activity. In human cell cultures, the derivative, C34-Chol, inhibited viral fusion of multiple HIV strains with potency one to two orders of magnitude greater than that of other HIV fusion inhibitors, including Fuzeon. Studies in mice showed that C34-Chol had a longer <i>in vivo</i> half-life than C34. Next steps were undisclosed.</p> <p>Fuzeon enfurvitide, a viral fusion inhibitor peptide analog based on HIV gp41, is marketed by Trimeris Inc. and Roche to treat HIV infection.</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.457 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Ingallinella, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 16, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0901007106</p> <p>Contact: Antonello Pessi, Merck Research Laboratories, Pomezia, Italy e-mail: antonello_pessi@merck.com</p>