This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	Tat protein; interferon- γ (IFN- γ); signal transducer and activator of transcription 1 (STAT1); suppressor of cytokine signaling 2 (SOCS2)	Studies in human cells suggest that targeting SOCS2 could help treat HIV infection. In healthy human blood monocytes, HIV's Tat protein induced production of SOCS2, which led to increased inhibition of IFN- γ production compared with that seen in controls. In Tat protein-treated human embryonic kidney cells, IFN- γ levels were inversely correlated with SOCS2 levels. Next steps could include identifying small molecule inhibitors of SOCS2 and testing them in HIV-1-infected cells. SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.582 Published online April 9, 2009	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Cheng, S. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online March 23, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-10-183525 Contact: Allan S.Y. Lau, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China e-mail: asylau@hku.hk