This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	Defensin- θ (DEFT)	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that increasing production of DEFT using aminoglycosides could help prevent vaginal HIV infection. In HIV-infected human promyelocyte cultures, transfection with a <i>DEFT</i> gene lowered viral loads more effectively compared with that seen in nontransfected controls. In cultured human HIV-infected promyelocytes or human cervicovaginal cells, aminoglycosides induced expression of DEFT and lowered viral loads compared with what was seen in untreated controls. Ongoing work includes safety and toxicity studies of the aminoglycosides as vaginal microbicides in macaques.</p> <p>PRO 2000, a naphthalene sulfate-derived microbicidal gel from Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s Indevus Pharmaceuticals Inc. subsidiary, is in Phase III testing to prevent vaginal HIV infection.</p> <p>SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.794 Published online May 14, 2009</p>	Patented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Venkataraman, N. <i>et al. PLoS Biol.</i>; published online April 28, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000095</p> <p>Contact: Alexander M. Cole, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Fla. e-mail: acole@mail.ucf.edu</p>