This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	Semen-derived enhancer of virus infection (SEVI)	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG) could help prevent semen-mediated enhancement of HIV infection. SEVI can increase HIV infectivity by directing viral particles to target cells. In an HIV infectivity assay, treatment with EGCG, an active constituent of green tea, reduced SEVI-mediated infection of human T cells compared with saline treatment. <i>In vitro</i> assays showed that EGCG triggered the degradation of SEVI. Next steps include evaluating the effects of EGCG on semen activity and in animal models of mucosal infection.</p> <p>SciBX 2(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.913 Published online June 4, 2009</p>	Patent application filed for use as a component of microbicides; available for licensing from Ascenion GmbH	<p>Hauber, I. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 18, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811827106 Contact: Ilona Hauber, Heinrich Pette Institute for Experimental Virology and Immunology, Hamburg, Germany e-mail: ilona.hauber@hpi.uni-hamburg.de</p>