This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	HIV tat protein	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that inhibiting tat secretion from T cells could help treat HIV infection. The transcription factor tat is secreted from HIV-1-infected cells and taken up by neighboring cells, thus sustaining infection. In tat-transfected primary CD4 ⁺ T cells, tat localized to the plasma membrane and bound the phosphatidylinositol-4-5-bisphosphate (PI(4,5)P ₂) membrane protein. In those cells, hydrolyzing PI(4,5)P ₂ led to displacement of tat from the membrane and blocked its secretion from HIV-1-infected cells, suggesting that PI(4,5)P ₂ helped mediate tat secretion. Next steps include identifying tat secretion inhibitors.	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Rayne, F. <i>et al. EMBO J.</i> ; published online March 7, 2010; doi:10.1038/EMBOJ.2010.32 Contact: Bruno Beaumelle, University of Montpellier II, Montpellier, France e-mail: bruno.beaumelle@univ-montp2.fr
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