This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	Tumor necrosis factor-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL); tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 10b (TNFRSF10B; DR5; TRAILR2; CD262)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest inhibiting a splice variant of TRAIL could help treat HIV infection. HIV-infected T cell lines expressed a previously unreported short splice variant of TRAIL that bound TRAILR2 to inhibit apoptosis. In patients with HIV, serum levels of the splice variant were higher than those in controls and were associated with viral loads. In CD4 ⁺ T cells from patients with HIV, knockdown of the TRAIL splice variant restored sensitivity to full-length TRAIL-induced apoptosis compared with vehicle. Planned work includes testing inhibition of the splice variant in cellular models of HIV infection. SciBX 4(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1019 Published online Sept. 15, 2011	Patented by the Mayo Clinic; available for licensing or partnering	Schnepple, D.J. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i> ; published online Aug. 22, 2011; doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.274639 Contact: Andrew D. Badley, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. e-mail: badley.andrew@mayo.edu