This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	gp120; HIV Tat protein; HIV Rev protein	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that a conjugate of a gp120-targeting aptamer and a Tat/Rev-targeting small interfering RNA could help treat HIV-1 infection. In human peripheral blood mononuclear and T cells, the aptamer-siRNA conjugate inhibited infection by HIV-1 clinical isolates better than either agent alone. In a humanized HIV-1 mouse model, the conjugate decreased viral load and prevented depletion of helper T cells in peripheral blood compared with aptamer or siRNA alone. Next steps include large-scale synthesis and toxicology testing in nonhuman primates.</p> <p>Endo Pharmaceuticals Holdings Inc.'s PRO 2000, a topical microbicide targeting gp120, is in Phase III testing to prevent HIV infection. NanoViricides Inc.'s HivCide-I, a nanovirocide targeting gp120, is in preclinical testing. United Biomedical Inc. has a mAb against gp120 in preclinical testing to treat HIV.</p> <p>SciBX 4(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.167 Published online Feb. 10, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Neff, C.P. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 19, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3001581</p> <p>Contact: John J. Rossi, Beckman Research Institute at City of Hope, Duarte, Calif. e-mail: jrossi@coh.org</p> <p>Contact: Ramesh Akkina, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo. e-mail: akkina@colostate.edu</p>