This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	CD4; HIV gag polyprotein; virion infectivity factor (Vif); CC chemokine receptor 5 (CCR5; CD195)	<i>Ex vivo</i> and mouse studies suggest aptamer–small interfering RNA chimeras might prevent HIV infection. In cervicovaginal explants, CD4 aptamers conjugated to siRNA that targeted either gag, Vif or CCR5 prevented HIV infection better than CD4 aptamers alone. In humanized mice, vaginal application of all three aptamer-siRNA chimeras prior to HIV challenge led to greater survival, stable CD4 counts and low or no detectable plasma viral loads compared with application of saline. Next steps include evaluating how long both gene silencing in the genital tissue and protection last.	Patent application filed; available for licensing through Children's Hospital Boston	Wheeler, L.A. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online May 16, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI45876 Contact: Judy Lieberman, Children's Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: lieberman@idi.harvard.edu
		SciBX 4(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.599 Published online May 26, 2011		