This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	CXC chemokine receptor 4 (CXCR4; NPY3R)	<i>In vitro</i> and cell culture studies identified cyclic modified peptides that could help treat HIV infection. A structure-based approach identified a modified cyclic pentapeptide that binds to CXCR4 with a subnanomolar IC ₅₀ value. In an HIV replication assay, the lead cyclic peptidomimetic molecule inhibited HIV activity with an EC ₅₀ value of 29 nM. Next steps include testing the compounds in animal models of HIV infection.	Patent application filed; unlicensed	Demmer, O. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online July 3, 2012; doi:10.1002/anie.201202090 Contact: Horst Kessler, Technical University Munich, Munich, Germany e-mail: kessler@tum.de
<i>SciBX</i> 5(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.869 Published online Aug. 23, 2012				