

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	IL-2-inducible T cell kinase (ITK)	<p>A cell culture study suggests that inhibiting ITK could prevent HIV infection. Human CD4⁺ T cells and Jurkat cells treated with a small molecule ITK inhibitor or ITK short interfering RNA showed lower HIV entry, replication and virion production than was seen in untreated controls. ITK is needed for T cell proliferation, which is a critical part of the HIV life cycle. Next steps include evaluating the efficacy of ITK inhibitors in combination with approved HIV drugs in cell culture and in primate models of HIV infection.</p> <p>At least two companies—Cellzome Inc. and AstraZeneca plc—have ITK inhibitors in preclinical development to treat asthma and other inflammation-related conditions.</p>	Patent filed; available for licensing	<p>Readinger, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 28, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0709659105</p> <p>Contact: Pamela L. Schwartzberg, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: pams@nhgri.nih.gov</p> <p>Contact: Andrew J. Henderson, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. e-mail: andrew.henderson@bmc.org</p>