

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	Apolipoprotein E (ApoE)	Genetic association studies suggest that targeting ApoE4 could be useful for treating or preventing some forms of HIV. In HIV-positive Europeans and Africans, those with the ApoE4 isoform of the ApoE protein were more likely to show an accelerated disease course and progression to death than those with the ApoE3 isoform. <i>In vitro</i> , ApoE4 increased HIV fusion and host cell entry of the R5 and X4 HIV strains compared with ApoE3. Further studies are necessary to determine the mechanism by which ApoE isoforms affect HIV attachment and fusion.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed; researchers partnered with Merck & Co. Inc. to identify compounds targeting ApoE4 in noninfectious disease indications	Burt, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 16, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0803526105 Contact: Robert W. Mahley, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: rwmahley@ucsf.edu