

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	Tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α); Pam3CysSerLys4 (Pam3CSK4); toll-like receptors (TLRs)	<i>Ex vivo</i> tissue-culture studies suggest that anti-inflammatory compounds that target TNF- α and TLRs could be useful adjuncts for HIV therapies. In cultured human epidermal tissue, TNF- α , TLR ligand Pam3CSK4 and a variety of bacterial and fungal pathogens all enhanced HIV-1 transmission compared with control medium. Langerhans cells (LCs) within the tissue mediated these effects. Further studies are necessary to identify the receptors for the inflammatory cytokines and pathogens on LCs and to develop inhibitors that could potentially block HIV transmission. Advanced Biotherapy Inc. has a TNF- α inhibitor in Phase I testing to treat HIV.	Findings not patented; unavailable for licensing	Jong, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Sept. 5, 2008; doi:10.1172/JCI34721 Contact: Teunis B.H. Geijtenbeek, VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands e-mail: T.Geijtenbeek@vumc.nl