

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	Not applicable	<p>A cell culture study identified a compound that could help eliminate latent HIV infections. In HIV-infected patients, a small minority of CD4⁺ T cells harbor dormant HIV, preventing complete elimination of the infection by antivirals. A screen identified a small molecule, 5-hydroxynaphthalene-1,4-dione (5HN), that reactivated viral replication in cultured HIV-infected CD4⁺ cells. 5HN induced viral replication in the CD4⁺ cells as efficiently as T cell-activating cytokines but without activating T cell proliferation, a toxic side effect of T cell-activating agents. Next steps include screening larger compound libraries and performing toxicology tests of lead compounds.</p> <p>SciBX 2(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1476 Published online Oct. 8, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Yang, H.-C. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Oct. 1, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI39199</p> <p>Contact: Robert F. Siliciano, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: rsiliciano@jhmi.edu</p>