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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	Virion infectivity factor (Vif)	*In vitro* studies suggest that gene therapy based on a Vif mutant could help treat HIV/AIDS. The Vif mutant F12-Vif has antiviral activity. In $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes or $CD34^+$-derived macrophages, a lentiviral vector of the chimeric Vif protein Chim3, containing the 126–170 amino acid region of F12-Vif, showed activity against HIV. Next steps include quality control testing of purified Chim3–lentiviral vector purified stocks for use in *ex vivo* delivery to hematopoietic stem cells or $CD4^+$ T cells. ***SciBX*** **2(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.318** **Published online Feb. 26, 2009**	Patent application filed for HIV Vif mutants including Chim3 in Europe, U.S., Japan, Australia, Canada, China, India, Singapore and South Korea; exclusively licensed by Takara Bio Inc. in Asia and coexclusively licensed to MolMed S.p.A. in North America for HIV/AIDS gene therapy; available for exclusive licensing in Europe and coexclusive licensing with Takara in North America for gene therapy against HIV/AIDS	Porcellini, S. *et al. Blood*; published online Feb. 11, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-06-158790 **Contact:** Chiara Bovolenta, MolMed S.p.A., Milan, Italy e-mail: chiara.bovolenta@molmed.com

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