

This week in therapeutics

| Indication | Target/marker/pathway | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Infectious disease | | | | |
| HIV/AIDS | Chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 20 (CCL20; MIP-3 α); IL-8 | A study in cell culture and in rhesus macaques suggests that glycerol monolaurate (GML) could be useful in preventing HIV transmission. In cultured HIV-infected human vaginal epithelial cells, GML inhibited the induction of proinflammatory factors CCL20 and IL-8 compared with that seen in mock-treated controls. These inflammatory factors provide the stimulus to recruit new T cell targets, which leads to the expansion of HIV infection. Four of five macaques treated intravaginally with a 5% solution of GML in gel did not develop systemic SIV infection after repeated high-dose challenge, unlike mock-treated controls. Next steps include scaling up further macaque trials of GML to optimize delivery and efficacy and launching clinical trials to prevent HIV transmission. | Use of GML as an anti-inflammatory covered by previous patents; licensing information undisclosed | Li, Q. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online March 5, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature07831 Contact: Ashley Haase, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. e-mail: haase001@umn.edu Contact: Pat Schlievert, same affiliation as above e-mail: schli001@umn.edu |
| | | SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.406 Published online March 12, 2009 | | |