This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	HIV protease	*In vitro* and *in vivo* studies identified 2-pyridyl P1′–substituted HIV protease inhibitors that could help treat the disease. Modification to the compounds' cores or variations at the P3 group resulted in compounds with potency against HIV proteases that were metabolically stable in human sera and liver microsomes. The compounds also showed good pharmacokinetics when used in combination with Norvir ritonavir in dogs and rats. Also in a rat model, the compounds caused only a slight increase in serum bilirubin, suggesting lower side effects compared with existing HIV protease inhibitors. Next steps could include further optimization and testing of the most advanced compounds in animal models of HIV. Norvir is marketed by Abbott Laboratories to treat HIV. At least 10 other companies have HIV protease inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed. *SciBX* 2(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.707 Published online April 30, 2009	Patent and licensing status unavailable	DeGoey, D. *et al. J. Med. Chem.*; published online April 26, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900044w **Contact:** David A. DeGoey, Abbott Laboratories, Abbott Park, Ill. e-mail: david.degoey@abbott.com