

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	Transforming growth factor- β 1 (TGFB1)	<p>Rhesus macaque, patient sample and cell culture studies suggest that decreasing lymphoid tissue fibrosis could improve immune response to HIV infection. In rhesus macaques, SIV infection was associated with increased levels of collagen deposits in the lymph nodes that resulted in T cell depletion compared with T cell levels in uninfected controls. In lymph node biopsies, HIV-infected patients showed more cells expressing TGFB1, a known mediator of fibrosis, and greater collagen deposits than uninfected individuals. In TGFB1-stimulated human fibroblasts, the antifibrotic Esbriet pirfenidone lowered TGFB1 signaling and collagen production compared with no treatment. Ongoing studies include investigating Esbriet as an adjunctive antifibrotic therapy in animal models of HIV-1 infection.</p> <p>Esbriet is marketed in Japan by Shionogi & Co. Ltd. for pulmonary fibrosis.</p> <p>SciBX 4(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.257 Published online March 3, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Zeng, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Feb. 14, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI45157</p> <p>Contact: Ashley T. Haase, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. e-mail: haase001@umn.edu</p>