

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	HIV Tat protein	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest cyclic peptidomimetics that block interactions between Tat and the transactivation response (TAR) element could help treat HIV infection. In a cell-based viral replication assay, a cyclic peptidomimetic inhibited replication of several HIV-1 strains, though at least 10-fold less potently than the antiretroviral drugs Zeffix or Fuzeon. Next steps include working with optimized peptidomimetics and starting macaque studies. Shire plc and GlaxoSmithKline plc market the nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI) Zeffix 3TC to treat HIV/AIDS. Trimeris Inc. and Roche market the viral fusion inhibitor peptide Fuzeon enfuvirtide to treat HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>SciBX 4(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.659 Published online June 9, 2011</p>	<p>Unpatented; available for licensing from the University of Washington Contact: Gabriele Varani, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: varani@chem.washington.edu</p>	<p>Lalonde, M.S. <i>et al. PLoS Pathog.</i>; published online May 19, 2011; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1002038 Contact: Eric J. Arts, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: ej3@case.edu</p>