

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Infectious disease</b>				
HIV/AIDS	HIV gp120; CD4	<i>Ex vivo</i> tissue and nonhuman primate studies suggest topical formulations of miniCD4 could be used to prevent HIV infection. miniCD4 is a CD4 mimetic that is built into a stabilizing 27-amino-acid scaffold and interacts with the CD4-binding site of HIV gp120. In human cervical or colorectal human tissue explants, pretreatment with the miniCD4 topical microbicide prevented infection of the tissues. In a macaque model of SIV infection, vaginal pretreatment with the miniCD4 microbicide one hour before high-dose challenge prevented infection in five out of six animals. Next steps include toxicology studies of the miniCD4 microbicide.	MiniCD4 peptides patented; available for licensing	Dereuddre-Bosquet, N. <i>et al. PLoS Pathog.</i> ; published online Dec. 6, 2012; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1003071 <b>Contact:</b> Loïc Martin, Institute of Biology and Technology Saclay, Gif sur Yvette, France e-mail: <a href="mailto:loic.martin@cea.fr">loic.martin@cea.fr</a>
<p><b>SciBX 5(49); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1284</b>  <b>Published online Dec. 20, 2012</b></p>				