This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)	Sarcospan (Kras oncogene-associated gene) (SSPN)	Studies in mice suggest that increasing the expression of SSPN could be useful for treating DMD. In the dystrophin-deficient <i>mdx</i> mouse model of DMD, overexpression of the human <i>SSPN</i> gene in skeletal muscle improved dystrophic pathology and muscle degeneration compared with <i>mdx</i> mice that did not express the transgene. Next steps include packaging <i>SSPN</i> into viral vectors for testing in DMD mouse models.	Patented; available for licensing	Peter, A. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Cell Biol.</i> ; published online Nov. 3, 2008; doi:10.1083/jcb.200808027 Contact: Rachelle H. Crosbie, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: rcrosbie@physci.ucla.edu
SciBX 1(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1022 Published online Nov. 20, 2008				