This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Cutis laxa	Pyrroline-5-carboxylate reductase 1 (PYCR1)	<p>Studies of patient samples, frogs and zebrafish suggest that targeting PYCR1 could help treat autosomal recessive cutis laxa (ARCL) and other wrinkle-related disorders. In a genetic analysis of 35 ARCL patients, disease-associated mutations were identified in the <i>PYCR1</i> gene. In fibroblasts from affected individuals, the <i>PYCR1</i> gene product altered mitochondria morphology and functioning through increased apoptosis. In frogs and zebrafish, PYCR1 knockdown led to increased apoptosis, epidermal hypoplasia and blistering, which is characteristic of ARCL. Next steps include determining the role of PYCR1 in aging.</p> <p>SciBX 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1278 Published online Aug. 27, 2009</p>	Patent application filed covering the role of PYCR1 in aging; available for licensing through the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)	<p>Reversade, B. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Aug. 2, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.413</p> <p>Contact: Stefan Mundlos, Charité-University Hospital Berlin, Berlin, Germany e-mail: stefan.mundlos@charite.de</p> <p>Contact: Bruno Reversade, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Singapore, Singapore e-mail: bruno@reversade.com</p>