This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Muscular dystrophy	<i>Dystrophia myotonica protein kinase (DMPK); muscleblind-like 1 (MBNL1)</i>	SAR studies identified inhibitors of RNA-protein interactions that could help treat myotonic dystrophy type 1 (DM1), a disease caused by aberrant interactions between <i>DMPK</i> mRNA and the MBNL1 protein. Based on X-ray crystal structures, a ligand was developed that destabilized the complex between MBNL1 and trinucleotide repeats in the <i>DMPK</i> mRNA. Next steps include testing the ligand in cellular and animal models. SciBX 2(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1385 Published online Sept. 17, 2009	Ligand unpatented; available for licensing	Arambula, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Sept. 7, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0901824106 Contact: Anne M. Baranger, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Ill. e-mail: baranger@illinois.edu Contact: Steven C. Zimmerman, same affiliation as above e-mail: sczimmer@illinois.edu