This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Osteoporosis; sarcopenia	Thyrotropin-releasing hormone receptor (TRHR); SNP rs16892496; SNP rs7832552	A genomewide association study identified two SNPs within <i>TRHR</i> that could be useful biomarkers for predicting susceptibility to diseases associated with low lean body mass, including osteoporosis and sarcopenia. A meta-analysis of data from the scan and three replication datasets revealed that the rs16892496 and rs7832552 SNPs were significantly associated with lean body mass ($p=5.53 \times 10^{-9}$ and $p=3.88 \times 10^{-10}$, respectively). Next steps include further investigating how polymorphisms in <i>TRHR</i> contribute to lean body mass variation.	Unpatented; unlicensed	Liu, X. <i>et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i> ; published online March 5, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2009.02.004 Contact: Hong-Wen Deng, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo. e-mail: dengh@umkc.edu
SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.413 Published online March 12, 2009				