This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Not applicable	<p>Studies in mice suggest that vitamin D plus calcitonin could slow or prevent MS disease progression. In mouse models of MS, a combination of the active form of vitamin D, 1α,25-dihydroxyvitamin D3 (1,25(OH)2D3), and the hormone calcitonin suppressed disease symptoms and did not elicit hypercalcemia. The efficacy of the combination treatment was increased in mice on a high-calcium diet compared with what was seen with a low-calcium diet. Future steps include determining whether the combination has efficacy in other autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>At least nine companies market therapies to treat MS symptoms.</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.437 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Becklund, B. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 9, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0813312106</p> <p>Contact: Hector F. DeLuca, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wis. e-mail: deluca@biochem.wisc.edu</p>