This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Wounds	Insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF1); IGF1 receptor (IGF1R)	<p>A study in human samples and in tissue cultures suggests that stimulating epidermal T cell production of IGF1 could be useful for accelerating wound healing. <i>In vitro</i>, stimulation of epidermal T cells resulted in increased levels of IGF1, which significantly accelerated wound closure compared with that seen in untreated controls ($p=0.012$). An anti-IGF1R antibody blocked the effects of T cell stimulation on wound closure. In contrast to cells isolated from acute wounds, human epidermal T cells isolated from chronic wounds did not produce IGF1 during the wound repair process, suggesting that IGF1 is a key contributor to chronic wound healing. Next steps include identifying IGF1 agonists and elucidating the mechanism behind impaired IGF1 functionality in chronic wounds.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.589 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Toulon, A. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online March 23, 2009; doi:10.1084/jem.20081787 Contact: Wendy L. Havran, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: havran@scripps.edu</p>