This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Bone repair	Wnt	<p>Studies in mice suggest that mesenchymal stem cells overexpressing Wnt could be useful for increasing bone formation to help heal bone fractures. In a mouse model of ectopic bone formation, implants of Wnt-overexpressing human mesenchymal stem cells mixed with hydroxyapatite (HA)/tri-Ca phosphate (TCP) ceramic powder increased bone formation by up to 25% compared with that seen in controls that overexpressed control LacZ protein. Next steps could include testing the approach in animal models of fracture repair.</p> <p>SciBX 2(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.632 Published online April 16, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; unlicensed	<p>Liu, G. <i>et al. J. Cell Biol.</i>; published online April 6, 2009; doi:10.1083/jcb.200810137</p> <p>Contact: Stuart A. Aaronson, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: stuart.aaronson@mssm.edu</p>