This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Cachexia	Activin receptor type 2b (ACVR2B)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that inhibiting ACVR2B could help treat cancer cachexia. In a mouse model of cancer cachexia, a soluble Acvr2b decoy receptor blocked the activation of multiple downstream signaling pathways that contribute to muscle wasting. In mice with either murine colon tumors, melanoma or ovarian xenograft tumors, the decoy receptor reversed muscle loss and cardiac atrophy, restored muscle strength and increased survival compared with vehicle controls. Future studies could include testing the decoy receptor in models of noncancer cachexia. Amgen Inc. did not disclose its future plans with the compound.</p> <p>Ostarine (GTx-025), a nonsteroidal selective androgen receptor modulator (SARM) from GTx Inc., has completed Phase II testing to treat cancer cachexia.</p> <p>OHR118 (AVR118), a peptide nucleic acid-type immunomodulator from Ohr Pharmaceutical Inc., is in Phase IIb testing to treat cancer cachexia.</p> <p>ALD518, a humanized mAb against IL-6 from Alder Biopharmaceuticals Inc., has completed Phase IIa testing to treat non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)-related fatigue and cachexia.</p> <p>SciBX 3(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1039 Published online Sept. 2, 2010</p>	Patented by Amgen; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Zhou, X. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Aug. 19, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2010.07.011</p> <p>Contact: H.Q. Han, Amgen Inc., Thousand Oaks, Calif. e-mail: hqhan@amgen.com</p>