This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Renal disease	Lipocalin (LCN2; NGAL)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that inhibiting LCN2 could help treat chronic kidney disease (CKD). In a genetic profile of kidneys from mouse models of CKD, upregulation of <i>Lcn2</i> correlated with disease severity ($p=0.008$). In mouse models of CKD, <i>Lcn2</i> deficiency led to fewer renal lesions, tubular dilations and cysts and lower proteinuria than those in control mice. Ongoing work includes investigating the role of <i>Lcn2</i> in other animal models of CKD.</p> <p>Genzyme Corp. markets Renagel sevelamer hydrochloride (Phosblock; PB94), a nonabsorbed phosphate binder, to treat CKD patients on hemodialysis, end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and other renal indications.</p> <p>Reata Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s Bardoxolone methyl, a synthetic triterpenoid that inhibits the transcriptional activity of NF-κB and signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3), is in Phase IIb testing to treat CKD in patients with type 2 diabetes.</p> <p>Tengion Inc.'s Neo-Kidney Augment, a bioabsorbable scaffold seeded with renal cells cultured from the patient's own healthy cells and implanted into a failing kidney, is in preclinical testing to treat CKD.</p> <p>SciBX 3(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1217 Published online Oct. 14, 2010</p>	Patented by Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM); available for licensing	<p>Viau, A. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Oct. 1, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI42004</p> <p>Contact: Fabiola Terzi, Necker Hospital for Sick Children, Paris, France e-mail: fabiola.terzi@inserm.fr</p>