This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Renal damage; end-stage renal disease (ESRD)	Notch homolog 1 translocation- associated (NOTCH1); recombination signal binding protein for immunoglobulin κ-J region (RBPJ; CBF1)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting NOTCH1 could help treat ESRD-associated interstitial fibrosis. In kidney tissue samples from patients with interstitial fibrosis, levels of activated NOTCH1 were higher than those in normal controls. In two mouse models of acute kidney injury-induced fibrosis, a deficiency in Notch1 promoter <i>Rbpj</i> or a γ-secretase inhibitor that blocked Notch1 led to less fibrosis than that in wild-type mice or animals given vehicle control. Next steps could include testing NOTCH1 signaling inhibitors in other models of renal fibrosis.</p> <p>MK-0752, a γ-secretase inhibitor from Merck & Co. Inc., is in Phase I/IIa testing to treat pancreatic cancer and in Phase I testing to treat breast cancer. At least three other companies have γ-secretase inhibitors in Phase I testing to treat Alzheimer's disease (AD).</p> <p>SciBX 3(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1276 Published online Oct. 28, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Bielez, B. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Oct. 18, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI43025</p> <p>Contact: Katalin Susztak, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: katalin.susztak@einstein.yu.edu</p>