This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Osteoarthritis (OA)	Liver X receptor (LXR)	<p>Studies in tissue culture and in rodents suggest that increasing LXR expression could help treat OA. In human cartilage cultures, a synthetic LXR activator reduced levels of OA-associated prostaglandin E₂ (PGE₂) and decreased cartilage proteoglycan degradation compared with vehicle control. In a rat model of OA, the LXR activator reduced joint pain compared with vehicle. Next steps include developing an LXR ligand to block expression of proinflammatory proteins. XL652, an LXR agonist from Exelixis Inc. and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., is in Phase I testing to treat metabolic disorders.</p> <p>SciBX 3(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.208 Published online Feb. 18, 2010</p>	Findings patented; currently unavailable for licensing	<p>Li, N. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 1, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0911377107</p> <p>Contact: Zhiyong Yang, Pfizer BioTherapeutics Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: zyyang@wyeth.com</p>