This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Renal damage	Dickkopf homolog 2 (DKK2)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that agonizing the Wnt pathway could help treat kidney damage. In a mouse model of renal ischemic and reperfusion injury, Wnt signaling activity in renal macrophages was higher than that in healthy controls. Also in the models, Wnt pathway agonist Dkk2 promoted faster renal epithelium repair compared with no treatment. Ongoing work includes testing other Wnt pathway agonists and investigating whether the Wnt-regulated repair mechanism occurs in intestine, liver, pancreas and/or muscle damage.</p> <p>SciBX 3(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.225 Published online Feb. 18, 2010</p>	<p>Patented by Brigham and Women's Hospital and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; available for licensing</p>	<p>Lin, S.-L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 15, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0912228107 Contact: Jeremy S. Duffield, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: jduffield@rics.bwh.harvard.edu Contact: Richard A. Lang, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio e-mail: richard.lang@cchmc.org</p>