This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Multiple myeloma (MM)	Activin A	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting activin A could help treat MM-associated bone disease. In MM patients, activin A expression was higher in subjects who also had osteolytic bone disease than in patients without the condition. In MM-derived bone marrow cells, an activin A-neutralizing antibody increased osteoblast differentiation compared with no treatment. In a mouse model of MM-associated bone disease, the soluble activin A decoy receptor RAP-011 reversed osteoblast loss, improved bone mass and reduced MM cell growth compared with no treatment. Next steps include testing the therapeutic potential of combining RAP-011 with other antimyeloma agents.</p> <p>Acceleron Pharma Inc. and Celgene Corp. have ACE-011, an activin receptor type 2a (ACVR2A) antagonist, in Phase II testing for bone repair associated with MM.</p> <p>SciBX 3(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.305 Published online March 11, 2010</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status unavailable	<p>Vallet, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 1, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0911929107</p> <p>Contact: Noopur Raje, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: nraje@partners.org</p>