This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Atrophy	TNF-like weak inducer of apoptosis (TNFSF12; TWEAK); TNF-like weak inducer of apoptosis receptor (TNFRSF12A; TWEAKR; Fn14)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting TWEAK could help treat denervation-induced skeletal muscular atrophy. Transgenic mice overexpressing TWEAK showed degradation of muscle proteins, increased fibrosis and muscle atrophy compared with wild-type mice. In a mouse model of muscular atrophy, <i>Tweak</i> deficiency led to less muscle atrophy and muscle fiber loss than occurred in control mice. Next steps include identifying and testing inhibitors for the TWEAK-Fn14 system.</p> <p>Biogen Idec Inc.'s BIIB023, a TWEAK inhibitor, is in Phase I testing to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA).</p> <p>SciBX 3(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.439 Published online April 8, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Mittal, A. <i>et al. J. Cell Biol.</i>; published online March 22, 2010; doi:10.1083/jcb.200909117</p> <p>Contact: Ashok Kumar, University of Louisville School of Medicine, Louisville, Ky. e-mail: ashok.kumar@louisville.edu</p>