This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Bone repair	Proopiomelanocortin (POMC; ACTH)	Rabbit studies suggest that ACTH could be used to help prevent glucocorticoid-induced osteonecrosis of the femoral head, which is often caused by glucocorticoid therapy and can lead to hip fractures. In rabbits, a glucocorticoid plus a synthetic derivative of ACTH reduced internal necrosis of the femoral head compared with glucocorticoid alone. Next steps include additional animal studies to confirm the findings. SciBX 3(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.591 Published online May 13, 2010	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Zaidi, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online April 26, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0912176107 Contact: Mone Zaidi, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: mone.zaidi@mountsinai.org