This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Osteoarthritis	Endothelial PAS domain protein 1 (EPAS1; HIF2A)	Human, animal and <i>in vitro</i> studies by two research teams suggest that inhibiting HIF2A could help prevent or treat osteoarthritis. Assays in mouse cartilage cells showed that Hif2a upregulated multiple proteins involved in cartilage destruction. In mouse and rabbit models of knee osteoarthritis, Hif2a knockout animals had less cartilage destruction than wild-type controls. HIF2A expression was higher in cartilage samples from patients with osteoarthritis than in samples from healthy controls. Ongoing work includes identifying extracellular factors that induce HIF2A expression and screening for potential HIF2A inhibitors. SciBX 3(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.638 Published online May 27, 2010	Findings in the first study unpatented; unlicensed Patent application filed by Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology for findings in the second study; available for licensing	Saito, T. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online May 23, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2146 Contact: Katsushi Tokunaga, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: kawaguchi-ort@h.u-tokyo.ac.jp Yang, S. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online May 23, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2153 Contact: Jang-Soo Chun, Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, Gwangju, South Korea e-mail: jschun@gist.ac.kr