This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Blindness	Estrogen-related receptor- β (ESRRB; ERR β)	<p>A study in mice suggests that agonizing ERRβ could help treat retinal dystrophies that cause blindness. In early postnatal mice, vector-mediated overexpression of constitutively active Errβ prevented an increase in rod degeneration compared with normal expression of Errβ. In a mouse model of photoreceptor degeneration, the ERRβ-selective agonist DY131 increased photoreceptor survival compared with vehicle control. Next steps include evaluating DY131 in additional models of photoreceptor dystrophies. DY131 is available for purchase as a research reagent from Tocris Bioscience.</p> <p>SciBX 3(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.742 Published online June 17, 2010</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering use of ERRβ agonists for treating retinal dystrophies; available for licensing from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine</p> <p>Contact: Pauline Callinan, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: pcallin1@jhmi.edu</p>	<p>Onishi, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 31, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1000102107</p> <p>Contact: Seth Blackshaw, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: sblack@jhmi.edu</p>