This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hepatic disease				
Liver disease	Cytochrome P450 family 17 subfamily A polypeptide 1 (CYP17A1)	Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting CYP17A1 could help prevent liver damage. In mice, upregulation of hepatic Cyp17a1 increased the size, inflammation and necrosis of the liver compared with those in control mice. In wild-type mice, intraperitoneal injection of 17-hydroxyprogesterone, a substrate of Cyp17a1, also increased liver size and inflammation compared with injection of vehicle control. Next steps include testing whether inhibiting Cyp17a1 in mice could help decrease bile and liver toxicity.	Unpatented; available for licensing	Anakk, S. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Dec. 1, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI42846 Contact: David D. Moore, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas e-mail: moore@bcm.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 4(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.13 Published online Jan. 6, 2011				