This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Muscular dystrophy	ATPase Ca ⁺⁺ transporting cardiac muscle fast twitch 1 (ATP2A1; SERCA1); ATPase Ca ⁺⁺ transporting cardiac muscle slow twitch 2 (ATP2A2; SERCA2a)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that increasing SERCA expression could help treat muscular dystrophy. In three mouse models of muscular dystrophy, overexpression of Serca1 in muscle tissue decreased disease symptoms compared with wild-type Serca1 expression. In one of the muscular dystrophy mouse models, gene therapy-based delivery of <i>Serca2a</i> reduced disease symptoms compared with a viral vector control. Next steps could include evaluating the effects of increasing SERCA expression in human muscle tissues.</p> <p>SciBX 4(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.228 Published online Feb. 24, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Goonasekera, S.A. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Feb. 1, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI43844</p> <p>Contact: Jeffery D. Molkentin, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio e-mail: jeff.molkentin@cchmc.org</p>