This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Osteoporosis	MicroRNA-138 (miR-138)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting miR-138 could help treat bone loss. In human mesenchymal stem cells (hMSCs), miR-138 inhibition led to greater formation of osteoblasts than administration of oligonucleotide controls. In SCID mice, implantation of hMSCs that lacked miR-138 led to greater bone formation than implantation of cells transfected with an oligonucleotide control. Next steps could include testing miR-138 inhibition in preclinical models of bone loss.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Eskildsen, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 28, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1016758108 Contact: Moustapha Kassem, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark e-mail: mkassem@health.sdu.dk
<i>SciBX</i> 4(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.431 Published online April 14, 2011				