This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Other				
Prolapse	Matrix metalloproteinase 9 (MMP9); fibulin 5 (FBLN5; DANCE; UP50)	<p>Mouse and patient studies suggest that MMP9 inhibitors could help prevent vaginal prolapse, a condition in which part of the vaginal canal protrudes from the vulva. In an <i>Fbln5</i> knockout mouse model of vaginal prolapse and in vaginal prolapse patients, MMP9 levels were greater in vaginal wall tissue than those in tissue from wild-type mice and healthy women, respectively. In the <i>Fbln5</i> knockout mice, <i>Mmp9</i> knockout led to less degradation of the vaginal wall and a lower incidence of vaginal prolapse than those in mice that expressed the gene. Planned work includes investigating whether MMP9 levels correlate with the severity of prolapse in women and whether postpartum <i>Mmp9</i> inhibition can prevent vaginal prolapse in mice.</p> <p>ALTY-0501, a formulation of 0.025% doxycycline in a nonantimicrobial dose that inhibits MMP9 from Alacrity Biosciences Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat dry eye.</p> <p>SciBX 4(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.520 Published online May 5, 2011</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Budatha, M. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online April 25, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI45636</p> <p>Contact: Hiromi Yanagisawa, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas e-mail: hiromi.yanagisawa@utsouthwestern.edu</p>