This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Muscle atrophy	Angiotensin II type 1 receptor (AGTR1)	<p>A study in mice suggests AGTR1 blockers could help treat muscle atrophy. In mouse models of age- and disuse-related muscle atrophy, the generic AGTR1 antagonist losartan decreased muscle fibrosis and loss of muscle fiber compared with vehicle control. Next steps include testing losartan in mouse models of cancer cachexia.</p> <p>Losartan is marketed as Cozaar by Merck & Co. Inc. for hypertension.</p> <p>GTx Inc.'s ostarine (GTx-024), a selective androgen receptor modulator (SARM), will enter Phase III testing for muscle atrophy next quarter.</p> <p>PsiOxus Therapeutics Ltd. has MT-102, a small molecule with an undisclosed target and mechanism of action, in Phase II testing for cancer-associated muscle loss.</p> <p>GlaxoSmithKline plc's GSK2245840 (SRT2104) is in Phase I testing for muscle atrophy.</p> <p>Neurotune AG and Radius Health Inc. have compounds for muscle atrophy in preclinical development.</p> <p>SciBX 4(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.601 Published online May 26, 2011</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Burks, T.N. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online May 11, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002227</p> <p>Contact: Ronald D. Cohn, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: rcohn2@jhmi.edu</p>