This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Age-related macular degeneration (AMD); ophthalmic disease	Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1)	<p>A study in mice suggests that mTOR inhibitors could help treat retinal degeneration. In a mouse model of oxidative stress-induced retinal degeneration, the mTOR inhibitor rapamycin increased retinal length, photoreceptor density and preserved photoreceptor function compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include testing additional mTOR inhibitors in mouse models of AMD.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc. markets Rapamune rapamycin (sirolimus) to prevent organ rejection in renal transplantation. The National Eye Institute is sponsoring a Phase I/II trial of sirolimus to treat AMD.</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Zhao, C. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Dec. 6, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI44303</p> <p>Contact: Douglas Vollrath, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: vollrath@stanford.edu</p>
<p>SciBX 4(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.81 Published online Jan. 20, 2011</p>				