This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)	Survival of motor neuron 1 telomeric (SMN1)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that the peptide hormone prolactin could help treat SMA. In a mouse model of severe SMA, daily intraperitoneal prolactin injections resulted in increased SMN levels, which are decreased in SMA due to mutations in <i>SMN1</i>, better motor function and significantly greater survival ($p < 0.0001$) compared with saline injections. Next steps include optimizing the dosing of prolactin to see if it will result in further improvements in SMN induction and survival.</p> <p>SciBX 4(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.857 Published online Aug. 4, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Farooq, F. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online July 25, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI46276</p> <p>Contact: Alex MacKenzie, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada e-mail: mackenzie@cheo.on.ca</p>