This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hepatic disease				
Liver disease	IL-1 receptor (IL-1R); IL-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1RA)	<p>Mouse studies suggest IL-1RA could help treat alcoholic liver disease. In a mouse model of alcohol-induced liver injury, knockout of molecules involved in IL-1β activation or signaling, including IL-1R, decreased liver steatosis and damage compared with normal expression. In the model, recombinant IL-1RA also prevented liver damage. Next steps could include testing IL-1R antagonists in additional models of alcoholic liver disease.</p> <p>Orthogen AG's Orthokine, an injectable form of IL-1RA, is in Phase III testing to treat pain.</p> <p>SciBX 5(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1006 Published online Sept. 27, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Petrasek, J. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Sept. 4, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI60777</p> <p>Contact: Gyongyi Szabo, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Mass. e-mail: gyongyi.szabo@umassmed.edu</p>