This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Spinal muscular atrophy	Calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest reducing CGRP expression could help treat spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy (SBMA). In human neuroblastoma cells and motor neurons expressing disease-causing glutamine CAG repeats in <i>androgen receptor</i>, small interfering RNA against or inhibition of CGRP decreased cytotoxicity and increased cell viability compared with control siRNA or no inhibition. In a mouse model of SBMA, reduction of <i>Cgrp</i> expression, using the serotonin (5-HT_{1D}) receptor agonist Amerge naratriptan, increased motor function and lifespan compared with vehicle control. Next steps include Phase II trials of Amerge in the indication.</p> <p>GlaxoSmithKline plc markets Amerge to treat migraine.</p> <p>At least four companies have antibodies or antagonists targeting the CGRP receptor in clinical and preclinical testing to treat migraine.</p> <p>SciBX 5(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1056 Published online Oct. 11, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; unavailable for licensing	<p>Minamiyama, M. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Sept. 30, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2932</p> <p>Contact: Gen Sobue, Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan e-mail: sobueg@med.nagoya-u.ac.jp</p> <p>Contact: Masahisa Katsuno, same affiliation as above e-mail: ka2no@med.nagoya-u.ac.jp</p>