This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hepatic disease				
Liver disease	IL-11 receptor	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest agonizing the IL-11 receptor could help treat liver damage. In a mouse model of acetaminophen-induced liver injury, an IL-11 receptor agonist increased hepatocyte proliferation and decreased liver damage compared with saline control. Next steps could include increasing the activity and stability of IL-11 receptor agonists.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc. markets Neumega oprelvekin, an IL-11 receptor agonist, to treat thrombocytopenia. ViroMed Co. Ltd.'s VM501, an IL-11 receptor agonist, is in Phase II testing for thrombocytopenia.</p> <p>SciBX 5(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.126 Published online Feb. 2, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status unavailable	<p>Nishina, T. <i>et al. Sci. Signal.</i>; published online Jan. 17, 2012; doi:10.1126/scisignal.2002056</p> <p>Contact: Hiroyasu Nakano, Juntendo University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: hnakano@juntendo.ac.jp</p>