This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Renal damage	Activin receptor-like kinase 3 (ALK3)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest ALK3 agonists could help treat renal damage. In a mouse model of chronic renal injury, kidney tubule-specific knockout of Alk3 increased epithelial damage and fibrosis compared with normal ALK3 expression. In five mouse models of chronic and acute renal injury, the cyclic peptide-based ALK3 agonist THR-123 prevented progression or reversed fibrosis compared with no treatment. Thrasos Therapeutics Inc. hopes to start a Phase I trial of THR-123 to treat renal injury next year. <i>SciBX</i> 5(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.186 Published online Feb. 16, 2012	Findings patented; available for licensing from Thrasos	Sugimoto, H. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online Feb. 5, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2629 Contact: Raghu Kalluri, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: rkalluri@bidmc.harvard.edu