This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Muscular atrophy	Guanine nucleotide binding protein (G protein) α -inhibiting activity polypeptide 2 (GNAI2)	<p>Mouse and tissue culture studies suggest increasing GNAI2 signaling could help promote muscle repair and regeneration. In mice, a vector expressing Gnai2 increased muscle fiber size and abundance compared with a control vector. In human skeletal muscle myotubules, a vector expressing GNAI2 prevented tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α)-induced muscle atrophy, whereas a control vector did not. Next steps could include identifying compounds that could increase GNAI2 signaling and evaluating their effects in animal models of muscular atrophy.</p> <p>SciBX 5(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.20 Published online Jan. 5, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Minetti, G.C. <i>et al. Sci. Signal.</i>; published online Nov. 24, 2011; doi:10.1126/scisignal.2002038 Contact: Mara Fornaro, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Basel, Switzerland e-mail: mara.fornaro@novartis.com Contact: David J. Glass, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: david.glass@novartis.com</p>