This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	Receptor tyrosine kinase-like orphan receptor 2 (ROR2); wingless-type MMTV integration site family member 5A (WNT5A)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting WNT5A-ROR2 signaling could help treat RA and RA-associated bone erosion. In mice, a deficiency of Wnt ligand <i>Wnt5a</i> or its receptor <i>Ror2</i> decreased the formation of bone-resorbing osteoclasts compared with no deficiency. In two mouse models of RA, a Ror2 fusion protein that acts as a Wnt5a decoy receptor lowered inflammation and bone erosion compared with a control protein. Next steps could include testing the fusion protein in animal models of other bone diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 5(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.224 Published online March 1, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Maeda, K. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 19, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2653 Contact: Naoyuki Takahashi, Matsumoto Dental University, Nagano, Japan e-mail: takahashinao@po.mdu.ac.jp Contact: Yasuhiro Kobayashi, same affiliation as above e-mail: ykoba@po.mdu.ac.jp</p>