This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Alopecia	Prostaglandin D ₂ (PGD ₂); prostaglandin D ₂ receptor (CRTH2; GPR44; CD294); prostaglandin D ₂ synthase (PTGDS)	<p>Mouse and human studies suggest inhibiting PGD₂ signaling could help treat androgenetic alopecia. In samples from males, balding scalp had higher PGD₂ protein levels than hair-containing scalp from the same subject. In both mouse and human scalp, PGD₂ inhibited hair follicle growth compared with vehicle. Next steps include determining whether blocking PTGDS or GPR44, two targets that mediate the effects of PGD₂, could improve hair growth.</p> <p>At least nine companies have GPR44 antagonists in Phase II trials or earlier development to treat allergy or asthma.</p> <p>SciBX 5(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.368 Published online April 5, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Garza, L.A. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online March 21, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003122</p> <p>Contact: George Cotsarelis, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: cotsarel@mail.med.upenn.edu</p>