This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Muscle atrophy	Sialic acid	<p>Mouse studies suggest increasing sialic acid levels with peracetylated <i>N</i>-acetylmannosamine could help treat hereditary inclusion body myopathy (HIBM). HIBM is a genetic disorder caused by low sialic acid levels leading to progressive muscle weakness and wasting. In a mouse model of HIBM, the synthetic sugar peracetylated <i>N</i>-acetylmannosamine increased sialylation levels, prevented muscle weakness and atrophy, and improved survival compared with placebo. Next steps include determining toxicity and dosing for peracetylated <i>N</i>-acetylmannosamine.</p> <p>SciBX 5(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.50 Published online Jan. 12, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Japan Health Sciences Foundation	<p>Malicdan, M.C.V. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Dec. 8, 2011; doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.297051</p> <p>Contact: Satoru Noguchi, National Institute of Neuroscience, National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: noguchi@ncnp.go.jp</p>