This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Osteoporosis	Bone morphogenetic protein 2 (BMP2); BMP4; bone morphogenetic protein receptor type 1A (BMPR1A)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest a BMPR1A-Fc fusion protein could help treat bone-related disorders such as osteoporosis. The fusion protein consisted of mouse Bmpr1a fused to mouse IgG2a-Fc. <i>In vitro</i> , the mBmpr1a-mFc fusion protein bound Bmp2 and Bmp4 with high affinity and prevented downstream signaling. In mice with osteoporosis, animals receiving mBMPR1A-mFc had bone mineral densities similar to those in healthy mice and had greater bone strength than mice given vehicle. Acceleron Pharma Inc. plans to file an IND for the program in 2013. Specific indications have not been disclosed.	Patented; licensed to Acceleron Pharma	Baud'huin, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online July 3, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1204929109 Contact: Peter I. Croucher, The University of Sheffield Medical School, Sheffield, U.K. e-mail: p.croucher@garvan.org.au Contact: R. Scott Pearsall, Acceleron Pharma Inc., Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: spearsall@acceleronpharma.com
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