This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Osteoarthritis (OA)	Proteoglycan 4 (PRG4; HAPO)	<p>A study in mice suggests enhancing levels of PRG4 in joints could help treat OA. In aging mice, <i>Prp4</i> overexpression in cartilage tissue decreased age-related OA compared with normal <i>Prp4</i> expression. In mice subjected to knee ligament transection, local delivery of an adenoviral vector containing <i>Prp4</i> decreased OA-associated joint pathology compared with delivery of a sham vector. Next steps include testing the <i>Prp4</i> gene therapy in a horse model of OA.</p> <p>GeneQuine Biotherapeutics GmbH's GQ-203 is a gene therapy using the same vector as in the study but containing a different, undisclosed gene. It is in preclinical development to treat OA.</p> <p>SciBX 6(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.293 Published online March 28, 2013</p>	Findings covered by provisional patents; licensed to GeneQuine Biotherapeutics	<p>Ruan, M.Z.C. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online March 13, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3005409</p> <p>Contact: Brendan H.L. Lee, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas e-mail: blee@bcm.tmc.edu</p>