This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Other				
Oral mucositis	Mothers against decapentaplegic homolog 7 (MADH7; SMAD7)	<p>A study in mice suggests delivering recombinant SMAD7 directly to the oral mucosa could help treat oral mucositis, which is often associated with cancer radiotherapy. In mice, Smad7 overexpression in the mucosa increased resistance to radiation-induced mucositis compared with normal Smad7 expression. In irradiated wild-type mice, delivery of a Smad7-Tat protein fusion to the oral mucosa decreased tissue pathology compared with delivery of saline control. Next steps include testing the Smad7-Tat protein fusion in mice with cancer-associated oral mucositis.</p> <p>Kepivance palifermin, a recombinant keratinocyte growth factor (KGF), is marketed by Swedish Orphan Biovitrum AB to treat oral mucositis in blood cancer patients receiving radiation before bone marrow transplants.</p> <p>SciBX 6(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.294 Published online March 28, 2013</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Han, G. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online March 10, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3118 Contact: Xiao-Jing Wang, University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, Aurora, Colo. e-mail: xj.wang@ucdenver.edu Contact: Qinghong Zhang, same affiliation as above e-mail: qinghong.zhang@ucdenver.edu</p>