This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hepatic disease				
Liver failure	Mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 4 (MAP2K4; MKK4)	<p>Mouse studies suggest antagonizing MKK4 could help treat liver failure. In mouse models for acute or chronic liver failure, small interfering RNA-mediated knockdown of <i>Mkk4</i> decreased fibrosis and increased both hepatocyte regeneration and survival compared with no knockdown. Next steps include reproducing the results in cultured human hepatocytes and identifying selective MKK4 inhibitors.</p> <p>SciBX 6(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.416 Published online May 2, 2013</p>	Patents pending; available for licensing	<p>Wuestefeld, T. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online April 11, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2013.03.026</p> <p>Contact: Lars Zender, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany e-mail: lars.zender@med.uni-tuebingen.de</p>