This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Alopecia	Janus kinase (JAK)	<p>Mouse studies suggest JAK inhibitors could help treat alopecia areata (AA). In mice with spontaneous AA, antibodies blocking interferon-γ (IFNγ; IFN-γ), which is induced by disease-specific T cells, decreased T cell accumulation compared with saline and prevented disease development. In the mouse model, oral treatment with the JAK inhibitors Jakafi ruxolitinib or Xeljanz tasocitinib prevented AA and helped restore hair growth after established disease. In three patients with AA, Jakafi led to hair regrowth within 5 months. Next steps could include evaluating marketed JAK inhibitors in additional patients with alopecia. Incyte Corp. and Novartis AG market the JAK-1 and JAK-2 inhibitor Jakafi to treat hematologic malignancies and myeloproliferative disorder. Pfizer Inc. markets the JAK-3 inhibitor Xeljanz to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA).</p> <p>SciBX 7(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1070 Published online Sept. 18, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status unavailable	<p>Xing, L. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 17, 2014; doi:10.1038/nm.3645 Contact: Raphael Clynes, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: rc645@columbia.edu Contact: Angela M. Christiano, same affiliation as above e-mail: amc65@columbia.edu</p>