This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Musculoskeletal disease	Wingless-type MMTV integration site family member 16B (WNT16B)	<p>Rodent studies suggest WNT16B could help prevent bone loss and consequent bone fractures. Loss-of-function <i>WNT16B</i> mutations in patients and knockout of <i>Wnt16b</i> in mice are associated with low cortical bone thickness, low bone mineral density and/or increased risk of nonvertebral bone fractures. In mice, injection of WNT16B-loaded liposomes into the skullcap bone decreased inflammation-induced bone loss compared with injection of empty liposomes. In rats receiving bisphosphonate-coated shinbone implants, injection of WNT16B-loaded liposomes into the shinbone increased bone mineral density compared with injection of empty liposomes. Next steps could include testing the WNT16B-loaded liposomes in other models of bone loss.</p> <p>SciBX 7(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1240 Published online Oct. 30, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Movérare-Skrtec, S. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 12, 2014; doi:10.1038/nm.3654 Contact: Claes Ohlsson, Sahlgrenska Academy at the University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden e-mail: claes.ohlsson@medic.gu.se Contact: Ulf H. Lerner, same affiliation as above e-mail: ulf.lerner@odont.umu.se Contact: Francesca Gori, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston, Mass. e-mail: francesca_gori@hsdm.harvard.edu Contact: Roland Baron, same affiliation as above e-mail: roland_baron@hsdm.harvard.edu</p>