This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Wounds	c-Met proto-oncogene (MET; HGFR); hepatocyte growth factor/scatter factor (HGF/SF)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest allosteric zymogen activator peptides that stimulate MET signaling could help treat wounds and prevent fibrosis. Proteolytic conversion of zymogen-like pro-HGF/SF to its MET-activating form is impaired in some fibrotic diseases. In <i>in vitro</i> wound healing and survival assays, zymogen activator peptides that bind the activation pocket of pro-HGF induced activation of pro-HGF/SF and promoted cell migration and survival by activating MET. Next steps include evaluating the efficacy of the peptides in animal models of aberrant tissue repair such as chronic ulcers or fibrosis.</p> <p>Roche's Genentech Inc. unit declined to disclose details on the status the zymogen activator peptides.</p> <p>ChronTech Pharma AB and Kringle Pharma Inc. have the hepatocyte growth factor peptide ChronSeal in Phase II testing to treat wounds.</p> <p>SciBX 7(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.766 Published online July 10, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Landgraf, K.E. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online May 25, 2014; doi:10.1038/nchembio.1533</p> <p>Contact: Robert A. Lazarus, Genentech Inc., San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: laz@gene.com</p> <p>Contact: Kyle E. Landgraf, AvidBiotics Corp., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: kyle@avidbiotics.com</p>