

This week in therapeutics

| Indication | Target/marker/ pathway | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Musculoskeletal disease | | | | |
| Osteoporosis | Cannabinoid CB ₁ receptor (CNR1) | <p>Studies in mice and in cell culture suggest that agonizing CNR1 could be useful for preventing age-related osteoporosis. Aged <i>Cnr1</i>^{-/-} mice had a larger decrease in the ratio of mean bone to tissue volume than wild-type littermates (<i>p</i><0.001 for males, <i>p</i><0.01 for females). Bone marrow from <i>Cnr1</i>^{-/-} mice showed greater adipocyte accumulation than bone marrow from wild-type controls. In wild-type mouse bone marrow stromal cells, a CNR1 agonist increased bone nodule formation compared with vehicle. Next steps could include evaluating the use of CNR1 agonists in animal models of osteoporosis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1247 Published online Aug. 20, 2009</p> | Patent and licensing status unavailable | <p>Idris, A.I. <i>et al. Cell Metab.</i>; published online Aug. 5, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2009.07.006 Contact: Stuart H. Ralston, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, U.K. e-mail: stuart.ralston@ed.ac.uk</p> |