

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Osteoporosis	Dickkopf homolog 1 (DKK1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest that DKK1 inhibitors could help treat osteoporosis. <i>In vitro</i> screens and assays identified a lead compound that was a nanomolar inhibitor of DKK1. In rat models of osteoporosis, the compound increased bone formation in the tibia and skull compared with no treatment or Dkk1 knockout. Next steps could include further lead optimization and <i>in vivo</i> testing.</p> <p>Arca biopharma Inc. and partner Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. are developing NU206, a recombinant spondin 1 protein that antagonizes DKK1. The compound is in Phase I testing to treat inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), GI injury and bone disease.</p> <p>SciBX 2(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1607 Published online Nov. 5, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unknown	<p>Pelletier, J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Oct. 26, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm9014197</p> <p>Contact: Jeffrey C. Pelletier, Pfizer Pharma Therapeutics, Pearl River, N.Y. e-mail: Pelletj@wyeth.com</p>