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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hematology				
Anemia; hemochromatosis	Bone morphogenetic protein 6 (BMP6); hemochromatosis (HFE); hemochromatosis type 2 (juvenile) (HFE2); hepcidin antimicrobial peptide (HAMP)	Two separate studies in mice suggest that increasing BMP6 activity may help treat juvenile hemochromatosis, a hereditary disease caused by excess iron accumulation. In the first study, disruption of *bmp6* in mice led to iron levels in the liver, heart and kidney that were similar to the severe iron overloads in juvenile hemochromatosis. In a second study, mice injected with exogenous BMP6 had higher expression of the iron regulatory hormone Hamp and lower serum iron levels than vehicle-treated control mice. Next steps may include identifying BMP6 agonists for treating juvenile hemochromatosis and also BMP6 antagonists to mitigate the symptoms of iron deficiency disorders such as anemia. *SciBX* 2(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.359 Published online March 5, 2009	Unpatented; unlicensed	Meynard, D. *et al. Nat. Genet.*; published online March 1, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.320 **Contact:** Marie-Paule Roth, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Toulouse, France e-mail: marie-paule.roth@inserm.fr Andriopoulos, B. *et al. Nat. Genet.*; published online March 1, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.335 **Contact:** Jodie L. Babitt, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: babitt.jodie@mgh.harvard.edu