

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Osteoporosis	Chemokine (C-C motif) receptor 2 (CCR2)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that antagonizing CCR2 could help treat osteoporosis. <i>Ccr2</i>^{-/-} mice had higher trabecular bone volume and greater bone mineral density than wild-type mice. Osteoclasts from the knockout mice also had lower bone resorptive capacity than wild-type littermates. In an estrogen-deficient mouse model of postmenopausal osteoporosis, <i>Ccr2</i> knockout led to better bone mineral density than that seen in mouse models that expressed <i>Ccr2</i>. Next steps include testing the effects of anti-CCR2 antibodies on bone loss in different animal models of osteoporosis.</p> <p>MLN1202, an anti-CCR2 antibody from Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.'s Millennium Pharmaceuticals Inc. subsidiary, is in Phase II testing to treat atherosclerosis.</p> <p>EPX-102216, a CCR2 antagonist from Epix Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in preclinical testing to treat pain.</p> <p>SciBX 2(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.547 Published online April 2, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status unknown	<p>Binder, N. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online March 29, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1945</p> <p>Contact: Kurt Redlich, Medical University Vienna, Vienna, Austria e-mail: kurt.redlich@meduniwien.ac.at</p>