This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Muscular dystrophy	Complement 3 (C3)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that inhibiting the complement factor system in skeletal muscle could help treat muscle-wasting disorders. In <i>dysferlin</i> (<i>Dysf</i>)-deficient mice, muscular dystrophy was associated with higher levels of inflammatory cells and complement factors in skeletal muscle than those in wild-type mice. Genetic knockout of C3 decreased muscle pathology in <i>Dysf</i>^{-/-} mice. Next steps could include testing complement factor inhibitors in the model. Potentia Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s Compstatin, a C3 inhibitor, is in Phase I testing to treat age-related macular degeneration (AMD).</p> <p>SciBX 3(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1389 Published online Dec. 2, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Han, R. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Nov. 8, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI42390 Contact: Kevin P. Campbell, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: Kevin-campbell@uiowa.edu</p>