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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Muscular dystrophy	RNA	Fruit fly and mouse studies identified a D-amino-acid hexapeptide that could help treat muscular dystrophy. A screening study identified the D-amino-acid hexapeptide ABP1 as an inhibitor of CUG RNA hairpin formation. The compound prevented CUG-induced lethality in a *Drosophila* model of muscular dystrophy. In a mouse model of muscular dystrophy, intramuscular injection of ABP1 into a hind limb decreased muscle tissue histopathology compared with injection of vehicle. Next steps include evaluating ABP1 via other delivery routes and in additional animal models of muscular dystrophy. Valentia Biopharma S.L. did not disclose its role in ongoing and future research.	Patent application filed; licensed to Valentia Biopharma	Garcia-López, A. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online July 5, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1018213108 **Contact:** Ruben D. Artero, University of Valencia, Burjassot, Spain e-mail: ruben.artero@uv.es

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