This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Muscular dystrophy	Wingless-type MMTV integration site family member 7A (WNT7A)	<p>Mouse studies suggest increasing WNT7A signaling could help treat muscular dystrophy. In the <i>mdx</i> mouse model of muscular dystrophy, plasmids that mediated Wnt7a expression increased muscle weight and muscle strength compared with control plasmids. Next steps include optimizing and producing the protein for therapeutic use. Fate Therapeutics Inc.'s FT301, a WNT7A analog, is in preclinical development to treat muscular dystrophy.</p> <p>SciBX 5(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1258 Published online Dec. 13, 2012</p>	Covered by pending patents; licensed to Fate Therapeutics	<p>Von Maltzahn, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 26, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1215765109</p> <p>Contact: Michael A. Rudnicki, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada e-mail: mrudnicki@ohri.ca</p>