This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Muscular dystrophy	Glutamyl-prolyl-tRNA synthetase (EPRS)	An *in vitro* study identified EPRS as the target of the antifibrotic drug halofuginone, which could help identify antifibrotic molecules with increased potency or selectivity and new therapeutic targets in fibrosis. *In vitro*, halofuginone inhibited the prolyl-tRNA synthetase domain of EPRS with a K_i of 18 nM. In mouse fibroblasts, proline reversed halofuginone-mediated inhibition of collagen secretion, confirming the drug's antifibrotic activity. Ongoing work includes synthesizing halofuginone analogs and looking for druggable downstream targets in the pathway. Halo Therapeutics LLC plans to start a Phase II trial of the halofuginone derivative HT-100 in Duchenne muscular dystrophy this year. *SciBX* 5(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.259 Published online March 8, 2012	Patent applications filed; available for licensing	Keller, T.L. *et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.*; published online Feb. 12, 2012; doi:10.1038/nchembio.790 **Contact:** Malcolm Whitman, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston, Mass. e-mail: mwhitman@hms.harvard.edu **Contact:** Tracy L. Keller, same affiliation as above e-mail: tkeller@hms.harvard.edu **Contact:** Ralph Mazitschek, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: rmazitschek@mgh.harvard.edu **Contact:** Chang-Yeol Yeo, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea e-mail: cyeo@ewha.ac.kr