This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Bone repair	Peroxisome proliferation–activated receptor-γ (PPARG; PPARGγ)	Mouse studies suggest PPARγ inhibitor–treated human mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) and MSC-derived extracellular matrix (ECM) could help repair bone. In a mouse model of cranial bone injury, human MSCs pretreated with a PPARγ inhibitor repaired 60% of bone damage, whereas nonpretreated MSCs repaired only 30%. In the models, PPARγ inhibitor–pretreated MSCs and a human MSC-derived ECM scaffold repaired 80%–100% of bone damage, whereas ECM scaffold alone repaired only 10%–15%. Results for the use of the pretreated MSCs and ECM scaffold to repair femur damage in rodents will be reported in a future publication. Blast Therapeutics Inc., the licensee of the findings, is developing biomaterials that accelerate bone repair and regeneration.	Patented by Texas A&M University; licensed to Blast Therapeutics	Zeitouni, S. *et al. Sci. Transl. Med.*; published online May 2, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003396 **Contact:** Carl A. Gregory, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Temple, Texas e-mail: cgregory@medicine.tamhsc.edu

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