

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Pain	Hyaluronan and proteoglycan link protein 1 (HAPLN1; LPP)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest LPP could help treat intervertebral disc degeneration-associated chronic lower back pain. Treatment of the condition is aimed at regenerating the intervertebral disc matrix to reverse the degenerative disease. In 3D cultures of primary rabbit intervertebral disc cells, a human, 16-amino-acid, N-terminal LPP peptide upregulated a chondrocyte-specific transcription factor and levels of the extracellular matrix proteins aggrecan and collagen II. Next steps include testing the potential of LPP to induce expression of disc matrix components in animal models.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Wang, Z. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i> ; published online Aug. 12, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.451948 <b>Contact:</b> Zili Wang, Atlanta VA Medical Center, Decatur, Ga. e-mail: <a href="mailto:zwang2@emory.edu">zwang2@emory.edu</a>
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