

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Hepatic disease</b>				
Liver disease	Fibroblast growth factor 7 (FGF7)	<p>Mouse studies suggest FGF7 could help activate liver progenitor cells (LPCs) to treat liver diseases. LPCs proliferate in response to liver injury and are believed to contribute to regeneration. In three mouse models of liver injury and in human patients with liver disease, LPCs expressed FGF7. In mice, inducing Fgf7 overexpression shortly after liver injury or after establishment of chronic liver disease increased LPC activation and decreased liver injury compared with no overexpression. Next steps could include testing FGF7 or its derivatives in mouse models of liver disease.</p> <p>Swedish Orphan Biovitrum AB markets Kepivance palifermin, a truncated form of FGF7 that acts as a keratinocyte growth factor receptor (KGFR; FGFR2; CD332) agonist, to treat oral mucositis.</p> <p><b>SciBX 6(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.116</b>  <b>Published online Feb. 7, 2013</b></p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Takase, H.M. <i>et al. Genes Dev.</i>; published online Jan. 15, 2013; doi:10.1101/gad.204776.112  <b>Contact:</b> Tohru Itoh, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan                      e-mail: <a href="mailto:itohru@iam.u-tokyo.ac.jp">itohru@iam.u-tokyo.ac.jp</a></p>