

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Wounds	Basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest a heparin mimetic could be used to stabilize bFGF for use in indications such as wound healing. In human dermal fibroblasts, bFGF conjugated to a heparin-mimicking polymer promoted cell proliferation and showed greater stability under various stressors than unconjugated bFGF or bFGF conjugated to a different polymer. Next steps include determining long-term stability of the conjugates in different storage conditions and testing in preclinical models for wound healing. Johnson & Johnson markets Fiblast trafermin, a human bFGF, to treat dermal ulcers. SciBX 6(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.239 Published online March 14, 2013	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Nguyen, T.H. <i>et al. Nat. Chem.</i> ; published online Feb. 17, 2013; doi:10.1038/nchem.1573 Contact: Heather D. Maynard, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: maynard@chem.ucla.edu