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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Dermatology; wounds	Hydroxysteroid 11β dehydrogenase 1 (HSD11B1; HSD1)	Studies in mice and in human samples suggest inhibiting HSD11B1 could help prevent age-associated skin defects and improve wound healing. Skin samples from aged individuals showed greater HSD11B1 activity than samples from young individuals. In mice, *Hsd11b1* knockout prevented age-associated dermal atrophy compared with no knockout. In injured mice, a topical HSD11B1 inhibitor accelerated wound healing compared with vehicle. Next steps include studies to determine whether preventing age-induced increases in skin HSD11B1 activity or treating skin with HSD11B1 inhibitors can counteract age-induced impairments in skin function. Eli Lilly and Co.'s LY2523199, an HSD11B1 inhibitor, is in Phase II testing to treat diabetes. At least four other companies have HSD11B1 inhibitors in Phase I testing or earlier to treat diabetes or glaucoma.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Tiganescu, A. *et al. J. Clin. Invest.*; published online June 3, 2013; doi:10.1172/JCI64162 **Contact:** Ana Tiganescu, University of California, San Francisco–NCIRE, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: ana.tiganescu@ncire.org

SciBX 6(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.624
Published online June 27, 2013