PublisherInfo		
PublisherName	:	BioMed Central
PublisherLocation	:	London
PublisherImprintName	:	BioMed Central

Blocking myostatin

ArticleInfo		
ArticleID	:	4649
ArticleDOI	:	10.1186/gb-spotlight-20021203-01
ArticleCitationID	:	spotlight-20021203-01
ArticleSequenceNumber	:	315
ArticleCategory	:	Research news
ArticleFirstPage	:	1
ArticleLastPage	:	2
ArticleHistory	:	RegistrationDate : 2002–12–3 OnlineDate : 2002–12–3
ArticleCopyright	:	BioMed Central Ltd2002
ArticleGrants	:	
ArticleContext	:	130593311

Jonathan B Weitzman
Email: jonathanweitzman@hotmail.com

Myostatin is a member of the TGF-β family of signaling molecules that appears to act as a negative regulator of skeletal muscle growth. In the November 28 Nature Bogdanovitch *et al.* demonstrate that inhibition of myostatin could be used as a therapeutic approach to increase muscle mass and treat myopathy diseases (*Nature* 2002, **420**:418-421). Antibodies against myostatin were tested in the *mdx* mouse model of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). The treated mice gained weight and displayed increased muscle mass and caloric output. The treatment caused a functional improvement of the dystrophic phenotype, suggesting that similar pharmacological strategies targeting myostatin might be applied to treat human muscular diseases and offer an alternative to gene therapy.

References

1. Regulation of skeletal muscle mass in mice by a new TGF-beta superfamily member.

2. *Nature*, [http://www.nature.com]

This PDF file was created after publication.