This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neuropathy	Protein kinase, cAMP-dependent, catalytic, α (PRKACA); protein kinase, X-linked (PRKX); patatin-like phospholipase domain containing 6 (PNPLA6; NTE)	<p>Studies in <i>Drosophila</i> suggest that upregulating expression of NTE could be useful for preventing neurodegeneration. In wild-type <i>Drosophila</i>, Swiss cheese (sws) protein—the <i>Drosophila</i> ortholog of human NTE—bound and regulated the localization and kinase activity of cAMP-dependent protein kinase 3 (Pka-C3)—a <i>Drosophila</i> homolog of human PRKACA and PRKX. In sws mutant flies, Pka-C3 was mislocalized and had greater activity, which led to more neurodegeneration compared with that seen in wild-type flies. Next steps include identifying compounds that increase or prevent the decrease of sws and NTE activity.</p> <p>SciBX 1(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1003 Published online Nov. 13, 2008</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Bettencourt da Cruz, A. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Oct. 22, 2008; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3015-08.2008</p> <p>Contact: Doris Kretzschmar, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Ore. e-mail: kretzsch@ohsu.edu</p>