This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Epilepsy	Integrin, α_4 (ITGA4); ITGAL; Selectin P ligand (SELPLG; PSGL-1; CD162)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting ITGA4, ITGAL or PSGL-1 could be useful for treating epilepsy. In a mouse model of the condition, inhibition of leukocyte-vascular interactions with antibodies that block ITGA4, ITGAL or PSGL-1, or genetic interference with PSGL-1 function, decreased the number of seizures compared with what was seen in untreated control mice. Mice that received the antibodies following acute seizures did not develop epilepsy compared with mock-treated controls. Next steps could include clinical testing of ITGA4-, ITGAL- or PSGL-1-targeted therapeutics to treat epilepsy.</p> <p>YSPSL, a recombinant fusion of PSGL-1 and human IgG1 from Y's Therapeutics Co. Ltd., is in Phase II testing to prevent ischemia reperfusion injury in liver transplant patients and to prevent delayed graft function in patients undergoing cadaveric kidney transplantation.</p> <p>SciBX 1(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1081 Published online Dec. 11, 2008</p>	Patent applications filed; unlicensed	<p>Fabene, P. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Nov. 23, 2008; doi:10.1038/nm.1878</p> <p>Contact: Gabriela Constantin, University of Verona, Verona, Italy e-mail: gabriela.constantin@univr.it</p>