This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Cataplexy; narcolepsy	IgG	<p><i>Ex vivo</i> studies suggest that autoantibodies are present in narcolepsy patients with cataplexy and could potentially be targeted to treat the disease. In a whole-organ physiological assay, addition of IgG from narcoleptic patients with cataplexy resulted in real-time physiological effects compared with administration of control patient IgG. The physiological effects could be partially neutralized with addition of the immunoglobulin IVIg, which interacts with a number of autoantibodies of neuronal targets, suggesting a narcoleptic autoantibody exists. Further studies are necessary to identify the specific narcoleptic autoantibodies.</p> <p>At least five companies have therapeutics to treat narcolepsy in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed.</p> <p>SciBX 1(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1111 Published online Dec. 18, 2008</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Jackson, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Dec. 3, 2008; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4489-08.2008</p> <p>Contact: Michael W. Jackson, Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia e-mail: michael.jackson@flinders.edu.au</p>