This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Schizophrenia	Reticulon 4 receptor (RTN4R; NGR; NOGO-66 receptor)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that NGR agonists could help treat schizophrenia. NGR is an axonal receptor that mediates inhibition of axonal sprouting and plasticity by myelin-associated ligands. Mutations in the gene encoding NGR have been associated with risk for schizophrenia. In cultured neurons, four different schizophrenia-derived NGR variants were unable to mediate myelin-derived growth inhibitory signals compared with what was seen in wild-type NGR. In mice, NGR knockout led to increased aberrant emotional and cognitive responses compared with those seen in wild-type mice. Next steps include identifying additional variants that affect axonal growth plasticity and sprouting in schizophrenia.</p> <p>SciBX 1(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1114 Published online Dec. 18, 2008</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Budel, S. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Dec. 3, 2008; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3828-08.2008</p> <p>Contact: Stephen M. Strittmatter, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: stephen.strittmatter@yale.edu</p>