This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	Forkhead box O3 (FOXO3; FOXO3A)	<p>Studies in invertebrates and in tissue culture suggest that increasing psammaplin A (PA) or FOXO3A levels could be useful for preventing neuron death. In nematode, fruit fly and mouse spinal cord culture models of neurodegeneration, administration of PA prevented neuron death in a Foxo3a-dependent manner compared with vehicle treatment. In those models, compared with controls, PA increased nuclear localization of Foxo3a. Also in culture, expression of nuclear-targeted Foxo3a protected neurons against insults associated with multiple motor neuron diseases. Next steps include evaluating the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of PA in mice, including whether PA can cross the blood brain barrier in sufficient concentrations to have a therapeutic effect.</p> <p>SciBX 2(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1055 Published online July 9, 2009</p>	<p>Patent cooperation treaty application filed covering use of PA compound in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) by activating FOXO3A; available for licensing from The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Technology Transfer Office</p> <p>Contact: Greg Baker, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa. phone: 215-590-5645 e-mail: bakerg@email.chop.edu</p>	<p>Mojsilovic-Petrovic, J. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online June 24, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1805-09.2009</p> <p>Contact: Robert G. Kalb, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: kalb@email.chop.edu</p>