This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Nerve damage; Alzheimer's disease (AD); Parkinson's disease (PD); ischemia/reperfusion injury	Monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1; CCL2)	<p>A study in cell culture suggests that increasing MCP-1 expression in astrocytes may be useful for protecting neurons from damage. In primary neurons exposed to oxygen-glucose deprivation, incubation with MCP-1 significantly lowered cell death compared with that seen in untreated controls ($p < 0.005$). In primary astrocytes, the neuroprotective neurotransmitter noradrenaline significantly increased MCP-1 expression compared with that seen in untreated controls ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include studying the effects of increased MCP-1 release in animals.</p> <p>BL-2030, a soluble chemokine (C-C motif) receptor 2 (CCR2) fragment that inhibits MCP-1 activity from BioLineRx Ltd., is in preclinical testing to treat prostate cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.108 Published online Jan. 22, 2009</p>	<p>Patent application pending submission; available for licensing from the University of Illinois Office of Technology Management</p> <p>Contact: Jay Vijayan, University of Illinois, Chicago, Ill. phone: 312-996-4129 e-mail: svijayan@otm.uic.edu</p>	<p>Madrigal, J.L.M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Jan. 7, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4926-08.2009</p> <p>Contact: Douglas L. Feinstein, University of Illinois, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: dlfeins@uic.edu</p>