This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Mesencephalic astrocyte-derived neurotrophic factor (ARMET; ARP; MANF)	Studies in rats suggest that exogenous MANF could help treat PD. In a rat model of PD, intrastriatal injection of MANF blocked degeneration of dopaminergic neurons and improved behavior compared with control injection. In treated rats, MANF was uniformly distributed throughout the striatum and the frontal cortex, a potential advantage over other neurofactors such as glial cell-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF), which is poorly distributed. Next steps include additional studies on MANF in animal models of PD.	Patent application for MANF therapeutic use filed in the U.S. and Europe; licensed to Licentia Ltd.; available for further licensing for therapeutic applications	Voutilainen, M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online July 29, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0833-09.2009 Contact: Mart Saarma, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland e-mail: mart.saarma@helsinki.fi
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