This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	P2X7 receptor	<p>Studies in mice suggest that the P2X7 antagonist brilliant blue G could be useful for treating SCI. The compound is an analog of the food additive FD&C blue dye No. 1. In a rat model of SCI, i.v. antagonist increased rates of motor function recovery compared with i.v. vehicle ($p < 0.01$ at day 40). Postinjury, treated rats had lower microglial activation and less proliferation of scar-forming astrocytes and neutrophil infiltration than vehicle-treated controls. Next steps could include additional studies in preclinical models of acute SCI.</p> <p>AZD9056, a P2X7 receptor antagonist from AstraZeneca plc, is in Phase II testing to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA).</p> <p>EVT 401, an oral small molecule P2X7 receptor antagonist from Evotec AG, is in Phase I testing for RA.</p> <p>SciBX 2(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1225 Published online Aug. 13, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Peng, W. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 27, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0902531106</p> <p>Contact: Maiken Nedergaard, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, N.Y. e-mail: nedergaard@urmc.rochester.edu</p> <p>Contact: Steve Goldman, same affiliation as above e-mail: steven_goldman@urmc.rochester.edu</p>