This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Retinitis	Rhodopsin (RHO; OPN2); ER-associated protein degradation (ERAD)	<p>Studies in <i>Drosophila</i> suggest that agonizing the ERAD pathway could help treat autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa. In a <i>Drosophila</i> model of the disorder, overexpression of two ERAD pathway genes suppressed retinal degeneration. Ongoing studies have identified other genes in the same <i>Drosophila</i> models that suppress misfolded rhodopsin, which causes retinal degeneration. Neurotech Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s NT-501, encapsulated cell technology to deliver ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) is in Phase II/III testing to treat retinitis pigmentosa.</p> <p>Allergan Inc.'s brimonidine tartrate intravitreal implant is in Phase I/II testing for the indication.</p> <p>SciBX 2(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1423 Published online Sept. 24, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Kang, M.-J. & Ryoo, H. <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 21, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0905566106 Contact: Hyung Don Ryoo, New York University School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: hyungdon.ryoo@nyumc.org</p>