This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS)	Xenotropic murine leukemia virus (XMRV)	<p>Studies using patient samples and cell culture suggest that XMRV could be a diagnostic marker for CFS. Tissue samples from 67% of CFS patients tested positive for XMRV compared with samples from 4% of healthy controls. A human cell line cocultured with plasma or peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from CFS patients resulted in virus protein expression compared with cell lines cocultured with healthy patient plasma or PBMCs. Next steps include a broader epidemiological analysis to determine whether XMRV is the cause of CFS.</p> <p>Ampligen, an immunomodulatory nucleic acid formulation from Hemispherx Biopharma Inc., is under FDA review to treat CFS.</p> <p>SciBX 2(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1514 Published online Oct. 15, 2009</p>	Diagnostic procedures described in the study covered by pending patents; licensed to Abbott Laboratories	<p>Lombardi, V.C. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Oct. 8, 2009; doi:10.1126/science.1179052</p> <p>Contact: Judy A. Mikovits, Whittemore Peterson Institute for Neuro-Immune Disease, Reno, Nev. e-mail: judym@wpinstitute.org</p>