This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Autism	<i>Semaphorin 5A</i> (<i>SEMA5A</i>)	<p>Genomewide analyses identified linkage and association regions for autism that could help predict susceptibility or could be targeted to help treat the condition. In a screen of 500,000 SNPs in over 1,000 autism families, chromosomes 6p27 and 20p13 were identified as linkage regions for the disease, and a SNP on chromosome 5p15 near the <i>SEMA5A</i> gene was associated with the disease. In brain tissue samples from 20 autism patients, <i>SEMA5A</i> gene expression was lower than that in control brain tissue samples. Next steps could include follow-up studies to identify functional variants in the linkage and association regions.</p> <p>SciBX 2(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1538 Published online Oct. 22, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Weiss, L. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Oct. 7, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08490 Contact: Mark Daly, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: mjdaly@chgr.mgh.harvard.edu</p>