This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Notch homolog 1 translocation-associated (NOTCH1)	<p>Studies in human cells and in mice suggest that inhibiting NOTCH1 could help treat MS and other demyelinating diseases. In a mouse model of demyelination, selective inactivation of Notch1 in oligodendrocyte progenitor cells (OPCs) led to faster OPC differentiation and greater remyelination than activation of Notch1. Future studies could include testing NOTCH1 inhibitors in animal models of demyelination.</p> <p>Acorda Therapeutics Inc.'s rhIgM22, a recombinant human mAb that promotes remyelination, is in preclinical testing to treat MS.</p> <p>Acorda's glial growth factor 2 (GGF2), a neuregulin that targets epidermal growth factor receptors (EGFRs) to stimulate promotion of myelin, is in preclinical testing to treat MS, stroke and congestive heart failure (CHF).</p> <p>SciBX 2(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1575 Published online Oct. 29, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Zhang, Y. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 19, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0902834106</p> <p>Contact: Gareth R. John, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: gareth.john@mssm.edu</p>