This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	<i>Glucocerebrosidase</i> (<i>GBA</i> ; <i>GCase</i>)	<p>Genetic analysis identified two mutations in <i>GBA</i> that could help predict PD risk. An international genotyping study identified two <i>GBA</i> mutations—L444P and N370S—in 15% of Ashkenazi Jewish PD patients but only 3% of controls without PD. PD patients with the <i>GBA</i> mutations showed disease earlier and were more likely to have relatives with the disease than PD controls lacking the mutations. Next steps include determining the basis of the association between the <i>GBA</i> mutation, which is the cause of Gaucher's disease, and PD susceptibility. Genzyme Corp. markets Cerezyme imiglucerase, a recombinant form of <i>GBA</i>, to treat Type I Gaucher's disease. At least five other companies have compounds in clinical development to treat Gaucher's disease.</p> <p>SciBX 2(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1611 Published online Nov. 5, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Sidransky, E. <i>et al.</i> <i>N. Engl. J. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 22, 2009; doi:10.1056/NEJMoa0901281 Contact: Ellen Sidransky, National Human Genome Research Institute, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: sidranse@mail.nih.gov</p>