This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Ataxia	Frataxin (FXN); histone deacetylase 3 (HDAC3)	Studies in cell culture suggest that inhibiting HDAC3 could help treat Friedreich's ataxia, a hereditary neurodegenerative disease caused by reduced expression of the <i>FXN</i> gene. In a human Friedreich's ataxia lymphoblast cell line, HDAC3-specific inhibitors increased <i>FXN</i> expression compared with inhibitors that targeted other HDACs. Additional preclinical studies of the inhibitors are underway. Repligen Corp. has HDAC inhibitors in preclinical development for Friedreich's ataxia. SciBX 2(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1637 Published online Nov. 12, 2009	Patent application filed; licensed to Repligen	Xu, C. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Sept. 25, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2009.07.010 Contact: Joel M. Gottesfeld, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: joelg@scripps.edu