This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	IL-6; IL-6 signal transducer (IL-6ST; gp130; CD130)	Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting gp130 could help treat pain. In wild-type mice, IL-6-mediated activation of gp130 induced heat hyperalgesia. Mice with <i>gp130</i> knockout in nociceptors experienced lower levels of pain than mice expressing gp130. Next steps include testing gp130-neutralizing strategies in rodent models of pain. Actemra tocilizumab, an anti-IL-6 mAb from Roche, is approved in multiple countries outside of the U.S. to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Alder Biopharmaceuticals Inc's ALD518, an antibody against IL-6, is in Phase I testing for cancer. Johnson & Johnson's CNTO 328, an antibody against IL-6, is in Phase II testing to treat multiple myeloma. SciBX 2(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1675 Published online Nov. 19, 2009	Findings unpatented; gp130 available for licensing for pain-related indications	Andratsch, M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Oct. 28, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1822-09.2009 Contact: Michaela Kress, Medical University Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria e-mail: michaela.kress@i-med.ac.at