This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Huntington's disease (HD)	NMDAR (GRIN); Huntingtin (HTT)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting excessive NMDAR activity could help treat HD. In primary rat neurons expressing mutant HTT protein, a low dose of the NMDAR antagonist memantine helped maintain synaptic activity and protected neurons from cell death. In a mouse model of HD, memantine reduced neuropathological and behavioral disease manifestations. Next steps include testing memantine in clinical trials for HD.	Use of memantine for neurological disorders patented; licensing status unknown	Okamoto, S. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online Nov. 15, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.2056 Contact: Stuart Lipton, Burnham Institute for Medical Research, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: slipton@burnham.org
<i>SciBX</i> 2(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1705 Published online Dec. 3, 2009				