This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Ghrelin receptor (GHSR)	<p>A study in mice suggests that agonizing GHSR could help treat PD. In a mouse model of PD, GHSR knockout in the substantia nigra led to more severe PD-like pathology than that in wild-type controls. Also in mice, ghrelin injection stimulated the activity and improved the survival of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra compared with mock injection. Next steps include testing ghrelin agonists in nonhuman primate models of PD. Tranzyme Pharma Inc.'s TZP-101 GHSR agonist is in Phase II testing for gastroparesis and postoperative ileus.</p> <p>Elixir Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s EX-1314 GHSR agonist has completed preclinical development for metabolic disorders and is in preclinical development for gastrointestinal motility disorder.</p> <p>SciBX 2(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1706 Published online Dec. 3, 2009</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Andrews, Z.B. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Nov. 11, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3890-09.2009</p> <p>Contact: Tamas L. Horvath, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: tamas.horvath@yale.edu</p>