This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD); amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); Parkinson's disease (PD)	Protein peptidylprolyl <i>cis/trans</i> isomerase NIMA-interacting 1 (PIN1)	<p>A study in rat neurons suggests that inhibiting PIN1 could help treat AD, PD, ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases characterized by aberrant neurofilament protein phosphorylation. In rat cortical neuron culture, <i>Pin1</i> knockdown reduced apoptosis caused by okadaic acid compared with that seen using no treatment. Inhibition of Pin1 signaling reduced aberrant neurofilament protein phosphorylation in the neurons compared with normal Pin1 signaling. Next steps could include evaluating the therapeutic effects of PIN1 inhibition in animal models of neurodegenerative diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 2(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1768 Published online Dec. 17, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Rudrabhatla, P. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Nov. 25, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4469-09.2009</p> <p>Contact: Harish C. Pant, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: panth@ninds.nih.gov</p>