This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Other				
Hearing loss	Nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 9$ (CHRNA9); CHRNA10	<p>A study in mice suggests that increasing nicotinic acetylcholine receptor activity may be useful for preventing hearing loss. In mice with an activating mutation in the Chrna9 subunit of the cochlear hair cell Chrna9-Chrna10 receptor, resistance to permanent acoustic injury was significantly increased compared with that seen in wild-type controls ($p=0.018$ for homozygous mutation; $p=0.041$ for heterozygous mutation). In the homozygous mutants, peak suppression of acoustic stimulus was 17 dB compared with <5 dB for wild-type controls. Next steps include developing compounds that activate CHRNA9-CHRNA10 receptor activity to protect the inner ear from intense sounds.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.204 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Taranda, J. <i>et al. PLoS Biol.</i>; published online Jan. 20, 2008; doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000018 Contact: A. Belén Elgoyhen, University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina e-mail: elgoyhen@dna.uba.ar</p>