This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Nuclear factor (erythroid-derived 2)-like 2 (NFE2L2; NRF2)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that targeting the NRF2-antioxidant response element pathway in astrocytes could help treat or prevent PD. Mice deficient in <i>Nrf2</i> had increased sensitivity to 1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine-induced neurotoxicity, whereas mice expressing <i>Nrf2</i> in astrocytes were protected. Further studies are necessary to identify small molecules with similar effects to genetic knockout.</p> <p>SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.243 Published online Feb. 12, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Chen, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0813361106</p> <p>Contact: Jeffrey A. Johnson, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wis. e-mail: jajohnson@pharmacy.wisc.edu</p> <p>Contact: Yuet Wai Kan, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: yw.kan@ucsf.edu</p>