This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Epilepsy	Calcium channel voltage-dependent T-type $\alpha 1G$ subunit (CACNA1G; Cav3.1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that targeting T-type calcium channels could help treat epilepsy. Transgenic mice overexpressing the T-type calcium channel gene <i>Cacna1g</i> had higher levels of the $\alpha 1G$ T-type calcium channel mRNA, higher protein expression and higher functional T-type currents in thalamic neurons than wild-type controls. The transgenic mice also showed frequent cortical spike-wave discharges that were associated with behavioral arrest, a characteristic of epileptic absence seizures. Next steps could include using the mice to identify and develop epilepsy therapeutics.</p> <p>SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.292 Published online Feb. 19, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Ernst, W. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Feb. 11, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2081-08.2009</p> <p>Contact: Jeffrey L. Noebels, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas e-mail: jnoebels@bcm.tmc.edu</p>