This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	X-linked inhibitor of apoptosis protein (XIAP)	Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that blocking S-nitrosylation of XIAP could be useful for treating PD. Previous studies have shown that overexpression of XIAP is neuroprotective in mice with PD. In postmortem brain tissue of PD patients and of mouse models of PD, levels of S-nitrosylated XIAP were significantly higher than those seen in normal controls, suggesting that nitrosative stress contributes to PD by impairing the protective function of XIAP. Next steps include elucidating the mechanism of S-nitrosylation of XIAP.	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Tsang, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 9, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0810595106</p> <p>Contact: Kenny K.K. Chung, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China e-mail: bckchung@ust.hk</p> <p>Contact: Ted M. Dawson, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: tdawson@jhmi.edu</p>
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