This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	PTEN induced putative kinase 1 (PINK1)	<p>A study in murine and human cell culture suggests that increasing PINK1-mediated calcium efflux could be useful for treating PD. <i>In vitro</i>, small hairpin RNA knockdown of the PD-associated PINK1 in neuron precursor cells led to mitochondrial calcium overload and generation of reactive oxygen species, which can lead to cell death. Next steps include identifying regulators of PINK1 and identifying the mitochondrial protein responsible for PINK1-mediated calcium efflux. Medivation Inc.'s Dimebon, which blocks mitochondrial calcium influx, is in Phase III trials for Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Phase II trials for Huntington's disease (HD).</p> <p>SciBX 2(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.505 Published online March 26, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Ghandi, S. <i>et al. Mol. Cell</i>; published online March 12, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.molcel.2009.02.013 Contact: Andrey Y. Abramov, Institute of Neurology, London, U.K. e-mail: a.abramov@ucl.ac.uk</p>