This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Anesthesia	Not applicable	<p>Studies in rats suggest that liposomal formulations of saxitoxin could be useful as long-acting local anesthetics. Nonliposomal saxitoxin is a local anesthetic with low cytotoxicity. In rats, liposomal formulations of the compound combined with dexamethasone produced a sciatic nerve blockade lasting for up to 7.5 days without upregulating the expression of genes associated with nerve injury in the dorsal root ganglia. Next steps include optimizing the formulation to further lower toxicity and increase the duration of the effect.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.669 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; unlicensed	<p>Epstein-Barash, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 13, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0900598106 Contact: Daniel Kohane, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: daniel.kohane@childrens.harvard.edu</p>