This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Not applicable	<p>Studies in human brain tissue and in mice suggest that targeting the T cell arm of the immune system could be useful for treating PD. Postmortem analysis showed that the brain parenchyma of human PD specimens and of mice with PD were highly infiltrated by CD4⁺ T cells. Mice deficient in CD4⁺ T cells had less nigrostriatal dopaminergic neuron cell death than wild-type mice. Next steps include determining the antigens that drive the CD4⁺ T cell response and identifying the mechanisms that boost CD4⁺ T cell passage through the blood-brain barrier (BBB).</p> <p>SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.68 Published online Jan. 15, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Brochard, V. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Dec. 22, 2008; doi:10.1172/JCI36470</p> <p>Contact: Stéphane Hunot, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Paris, France e-mail: stephane.hunot@upmc.fr</p> <p>Contact: Etienne C. Hirsch, same affiliation as above e-mail: etienne.hirsch@upmc.fr</p>