This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Contactin-2 (CNTN2)	<i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest that targeting CNTN2 could help treat MS. <i>In vitro</i> , peripheral blood mononuclear cells from MS patients elicited an autoreactive response to CNTN2. Serum samples from MS patients also contained autoantibodies against CNTN2 that were not present in healthy individuals. In rats, injection of T cells specific for the rat equivalent of CNTN2 induced symptoms of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), a model of MS, and inflammation of gray matter. Next steps include a cross-sectional or longitudinal study to validate the link between CNTN2 autoimmunity and gray matter pathology in humans.	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Derfuss, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online April 27, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0901496106 Contact: Edgar Meinel, Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology, Martinsried, Germany e-mail: meinel@neuro.mpg.de
<i>SciBX</i> 2(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.692 Published online April 30, 2009				