This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	NMDA receptor NR3A subtype (GRIN3A; NR3A)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that increasing NR3A levels could help protect against neurological damage. <i>In vitro</i>, neurons from NR3A transgenic mice were protected from excitotoxicity caused by NMDA exposure compared with neurons from wild-type mice. After focal cerebral ischemia, NR3A transgenic mice had less neuronal damage and better neurological behavior than wild-type mice. Next steps could include identifying a compound for increasing expression of the subunit.</p> <p>At least 18 companies have compounds targeting the NMDA receptor in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat neurological conditions.</p> <p>SciBX 2(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.717 Published online April 30, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Nakanishi, N. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online April 22, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1067-09.2009</p> <p>Contact: Nobuki Nakanishi, Burnham Institute for Medical Research, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: nnakanishi@burnham.org</p>