This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Epilepsy	Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1)	<p>Studies in rats suggest that the mTOR inhibitor rapamycin could help reduce or prevent epilepsy. In a rat model of temporal lobe epilepsy, administration of rapamycin prior to seizure induction decreased mTOR activation, neuronal cell death and development of spontaneous epilepsy. Also in rats, rapamycin treatment after induction of sustained seizures inhibited mTOR activity and subsequent spontaneous seizures. Next steps include studying the effects of approved mTOR inhibitors in rodent models of brain injury-induced epilepsy and in epilepsy patients. At least 11 companies have mTOR inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed for various indications including cancer and autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 2(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.919 Published online June 4, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Zeng, L. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online May 27, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0066-09.2009</p> <p>Contact: Michael Wong, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: wong_m@wustl.edu</p>