This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Not applicable	<p>Rat studies suggest that patient-derived induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells could help treat PD. In normal rats, intrastriatal transplants of neurons derived from PD patient iPS cells survived for 12 weeks without inducing tumor formation and showed outgrowth patterns similar to those seen in rats receiving transplants of human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) or iPS cells from healthy individuals. In a rat model of PD, patient-derived iPS neuronal transplants improved simple motor functions compared with no transplant. Ongoing work includes testing additional iPS cell differentiation protocols to improve the therapeutic effects of the neuronal transplants.</p> <p>NeuroGeneration Inc.'s neural stem cell (NSC)-derived dopaminergic cell therapy is in Phase II testing to treat PD.</p> <p>SciBX 3(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1047 Published online Sept. 2, 2010</p>	Patented by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and McLean Hospital; unavailable for licensing	<p>Hargus, G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 23, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1010209107</p> <p>Contact: Ole Isacson, McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Belmont, Mass. e-mail: isacson@hms.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Rudolf Jaenisch, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: jaenisch@wi.mit.edu</p>