This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Diabetic neuropathy	Liver X receptor (LXR)	<p>Studies in rats suggest that agonizing LXR could help treat diabetic neuropathy. In a rat model of diabetic neuropathy, an injected LXR agonist decreased thermal sensitivity, increased tail nerve conduction velocity and increased Na⁺- and K⁺-ATPase activity in the sciatic nerve compared with those in untreated rats. Next steps include further characterizing the mechanism of action of LXR activation in peripheral nerves.</p> <p>XL652, an LXR agonist from Exelixis Inc. and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., is in Phase I testing to treat metabolic disorders.</p> <p>SciBX 3(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1100 Published online Sept. 16, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Cermenati, G. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Sept. 8, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1898-10.2010 Contact: Nico Mitro, University of Milan, Milan, Italy e-mail: nico.mitro@unimi.it Contact: Roberto Cosimo Melcangi, same affiliation as above e-mail: roberto.melcangi@unimi.it</p>