This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Autism	Patched domain containing 1 (PTCHD1)	<p>Genetic studies suggest that mutations in <i>PTCHD1</i> could be associated with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual disability. <i>PTCHD1</i> is a transmembrane protein that is related to the Hedgehog (Hh) receptor. In a study of seven families with autism spectrum disorders and three with related intellectual disabilities, missense mutations in or near the X-chromosome gene <i>PTCHD1</i> were identified in affected males, whereas the same mutations were absent in more than 500 controls without autism. Next steps could include exploring the therapeutic potential of targeting <i>PTCHD1</i> and the Hh pathway in autism spectrum disorders and intellectual disability.</p> <p>SciBX 3(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1214 Published online Oct. 14, 2010</p>	<p>Patent application filed for the U.S., Canada and Japan; licensed exclusively by Athena Diagnostics Inc. for diagnostic testing for autism spectrum disorders</p>	<p>Noor, A. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Sept. 15, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3001267 Contact: John B. Vincent, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: john_vincent@camh.net Contact: Stephen W. Scherer, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: stephen.scherer@sickkids.ca</p>