This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	α -Synuclein (SNCA); peroxisome proliferation-activated receptor- γ coactivator 1 α (PPARGC1A; PGC1 α)	<p>Studies in humans and in tissue culture suggest that activating PGC1α could help treat PD. In a meta-analysis of 17 human genomewide association studies, low expression of PGC1α-responsive genes was associated with PD pathology ($p=6.32\times 10^{-7}$).</p> <p>In rodent neuronal tissue cultures, PGC1α overexpression resulted in less Snca- and toxin-induced PD pathology than normal Pgc1α expression. Next steps could include evaluating existing PGC1α modulators in PD patients or developing optimized PGC1α modulators and evaluating their effects in animal PD models.</p> <p>SciBX 3(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1215 Published online Oct. 14, 2010</p>	<p>Patent pending covering PGC1α isoforms; available for licensing from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Office of Research and Technology Ventures</p> <p>Contact: Nancy Grodin, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: nancy_grodin@dfci.harvard.edu</p>	<p>Zheng, B. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 6, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3001059</p> <p>Contact: Clemens R. Scherzer, Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: cscherzer@rics.bwh.harvard.edu</p>