This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI); stroke	Arginase (Arg1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest that the natural compound daidzein could help treat stroke and SCI. <i>In vitro</i>, daidzein induced transcription of Arg1, an enzyme known to have protective and regenerative effects on neurons. Cultured neurons treated with daidzein overcame an inhibitor of neurite outgrowth compared with vehicle-treated neurons. In rats with a crushed optic nerve, daidzein crossed the blood brain barrier (BBB) and promoted axon regeneration compared with vehicle. Next steps could include testing daidzein in animal models of stroke or SCI.</p> <p>SciBX 3(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.126 Published online Jan. 28, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Ma, T. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Jan. 13, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5266-09.2010 Contact: Rajiv R. Ratan, Burke-Cornell Medical Research Institute, White Plains, N.Y. e-mail: rratan@burke.org</p>