This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Calcium channel L-type; calcium channel voltage- dependent L type $\alpha 1D$ subunit (CACNA1D; Cav1.3)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that L-type calcium channel antagonists could help prevent or treat early stage PD. In a mouse model of PD, oxidative stress was higher in dopaminergic neurons of the substantia nigra than in neurons of healthy mice. The increased stress was eliminated by an L-type calcium channel antagonist. Next steps include developing an antagonist that selectively targets L-type calcium channel Cav1.3, which is known to be involved in PD.</p> <p>At least 16 companies market calcium channel antagonists to treat hypertension.</p> <p>SciBX 3(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1365 Published online Nov. 18, 2010</p>	U.S. patent pending covering modulation of calcium channels to treat neurological disorders; available for licensing worldwide	<p>Guzman, J.N. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Nov. 10, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09536</p> <p>Contact: D. James Surmeier, Northwestern University, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: j-surmeier@northwestern.edu</p>