This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Ras protein-specific guanine nucleotide- releasing factor 1 (RASGRF1)	<p>Studies in nonhuman primates and mice suggest that inhibiting RASGRF1 signaling could help prevent L-dopa-induced dyskinesia side effects in PD. In a mouse model of PD, compared with wild-type controls, <i>Rasgrf1</i> deficiency decreased dyskinesia and did not alter the efficacy of L-dopa. In a nonhuman primate model of PD, gene therapy-mediated inhibition of <i>RASGRF1</i> reduced dyskinesia without compromising L-dopa efficacy compared with what was seen using a control vector. Next steps include developing cell-permeable peptides that can penetrate the blood brain barrier and inhibit RASGRF1 signaling.</p> <p>SciBX 3(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1419 Published online Dec. 9, 2010</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering use in dyskinesia and related disorders; available for licensing from the San Raffaele Scientific Institute Biotechnology Transfer Office</p>	<p>Fasano, S. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 22, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1012071107</p> <p>Contact: Riccardo Brambilla, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy e-mail: brambilla.riccardo@hsr.it</p>