This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Chondroitin sulfate proteoglycans (CSPGs)	<p>A study in rats suggests that digesting CSPGs with chondroitinase ABC (ChABC) followed by transplantation of neural precursor cells could help treat chronic SCI. In rat chronic SCI models, the procedure improved recovery of motor function compared with no treatment. Treated rats also had no increases in post-trauma neuropathic pain. Next steps include studying the mechanisms behind the reparative effects of the neural precursor cells. ChABC, a bacterial enzyme that breaks down CSPGs, is in preclinical development for SCI by Acorda Therapeutics Inc.</p> <p>SciBX 3(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.196 Published online Feb. 11, 2010</p>	<p>Patent pending covering combinatorial approach; available for licensing from University Health Network</p> <p>Contact: Brian H. Barber, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada phone: 416-581-7410 e-mail: bbarber@uhnresearch.ca</p>	<p>Karimi-Abdolrezaee, S. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Feb. 3, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3111-09.2010</p> <p>Contact: Michael G. Fehlings, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: michael.fehlings@uhn.on.ca</p> <p>Contact: Soheila Karimi-Abdolrezaee, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada e-mail: karimis@cc.umanitoba.ca</p>