This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Huntington's disease (HD)	Huntingtin (HTT)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a fusion molecule that specifically bound mutant HTT and could help treat HD. In cells, the fusion peptide decreased HTT aggregation and cell death compared with a scrambled control peptide. In a mouse model of HD, intrastriatal delivery of a viral vector expressing the fusion molecule led to less weight loss, greater performance in sensorimotor coordination tests and higher survival than delivery of a viral vector not expressing the fusion protein. Next steps include confirming the long-term safety of the peptide in other animals such as primates.	Patent application filed; licensing status unavailable	Bauer, P. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i> ; published online Feb. 28, 2010; doi:10.1038/nbt.1608 Contact: Nobuyuki Nukina, RIKEN Brain Science Institute, Saitama, Japan e-mail: nukina@brain.riken.jp
<i>SciBX</i> 3(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.284 Published online March 4, 2010				