This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Not applicable	<p>A study in mice suggests the vitamin A analog fenretinide could help treat SCI. Fenretinide inhibits a range of enzymes involved in the synthesis of proinflammatory lipids. In a mouse model of SCI, fenretinide lowered inflammatory lipid levels, increased neuronal spinal cord neuron numbers and improved locomotor recovery compared with mock treatment. Next steps include developing a clinical trial protocol to test the therapeutic potential of fenretinide in acute SCI.</p> <p>Sirion Therapeutics Inc. has ST-602 fenretinide in Phase II testing for geographic atrophy (GA) in patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD).</p> <p>CerRx Inc.'s i.v. formulation of fenretinide has completed Phase I testing for Ewing's sarcoma.</p> <p>SciBX 3(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.352 Published online March 18, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Lopez-Vales, R. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online March 3, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5770-09.2010</p> <p>Contact: Samuel David, McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, Quebec, Canada e-mail: sam.david@mcgill.ca</p>