This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Hepatocyte growth factor (HGF; SF)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that upregulating HGF in the CNS could help treat MS. In two different mouse models of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), mice with CNS-specific expression of human <i>HGF</i> had less severe disease symptoms than animals that did not express the human gene. In cell cultures treated with HGF, proinflammatory dendritic cell antigen-presenting function and T cell proliferation were inhibited compared with those in cells given no HGF treatment. Next steps could include identifying compounds that increase HGF expression in the CNS.	Findings unpatented; licensing status unavailable	Benkhoucha, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 15, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0912437107 Contact: Patrice H. Lalive, Geneva University Hospitals, Geneva, Switzerland e-mail: patrice.lalive@hcuge.ch
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