This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Huntington's disease (HD)	GM1 ganglioside	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies suggest that increasing GM1 ganglioside levels in the brain could help treat HD. In cultured rodent cells expressing HD-associated mutant huntingtin (Htt), GM1 levels were lower and apoptosis was greater than in cells expressing wild-type Htt. In a transgenic mouse model of HD and in fibroblasts from HD patients, GM1 levels were also lower than those in control mice and fibroblasts from non-HD controls. Next steps include testing whether exogenous GM1 is protective in animal models of HD and studying possible mechanisms by which GM1 might alter the toxicity of mutant Htt.</p> <p>SciBX 3(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.385 Published online March 25, 2010</p>	Patent application filed for methods using gangliosides for HD; available for licensing	<p>Maglione, V. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online March 17, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.6348-09.2010</p> <p>Contact: Simonetta Sipione, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada e-mail: ssipione@ualberta.ca</p>