This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Schizophrenia	Neuregulin 1 (NRG1); disrupted in schizophrenia 1 (DISC1)	<p>A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that agonizing NRG1 could raise DISC1 levels to treat or prevent schizophrenia. Mutations that reduce DISC1 activity correlate with schizophrenia in humans. In cultured rat neurons, recombinant NRG1 increased levels of Disc1 compared with mock treatment. In Nrg1 knockout mice, Disc1 levels were lower than those in wild-type controls. Next steps include determining whether NRG1 agonists or NRG1 itself increases the activity of DISC1 in synapses.</p> <p>Rusk Intellectual A.G. has a discovery-stage diagnostic program for psychiatric indications based on the NRG1 discoveries.</p> <p>SciBX 3(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.445 Published online April 8, 2010</p>	Patent on diagnostic uses of these discoveries held jointly by The Johns Hopkins University and Rusk Intellectual; unavailable for licensing	<p>Seshadri, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 8, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0909284107</p> <p>Contact: Akira Sawa, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: asawa1@jhmi.edu</p> <p>Contact: Eva Anton, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: anton@med.unc.edu</p>