This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	Potassium channel Kv1.3 (KCNA3)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest that blocking KCNA3 could help treat stroke and neurodegenerative diseases. In cultured neural progenitor cells (NPCs), granzyme B treatment resulted in increased levels of KCNA3 and inhibited NPC proliferation compared with no treatment. In rats, injection of granzyme B increased levels of KCNA3 on NPCs and decreased NPC proliferation, whereas co-injection with granzyme B plus the KCNA3 blocker margatoxin inhibited the decrease in NPC proliferation, which could help replenish dying neurons in stroke and neurodegenerative disease. Next steps include identifying compounds that target KCNA3 and penetrate the blood brain barrier (BBB). Debio 0824, a KCNA3 blocker from Airmid Inc. and Debiopharm S.A., is in preclinical testing for autoimmune indications.</p> <p>SciBX 3(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.472 Published online April 15, 2010</p>	Target patented worldwide; available for licensing	<p>Wang, T. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online April 4, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0311-10.2010</p> <p>Contact: Avindra Nath, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: anath1@jhmi.edu</p>