This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD); Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Nuclear factor (erythroid-derived 2)-like 2 (NFE2L2; NRF2)	<p>Studies in <i>Drosophila</i> suggest that coffee- and tobacco-derived NRF2 agonists could help prevent PD and AD. In <i>Nrf2</i>-deficient <i>Drosophila</i> models of PD, extracts of decaffeinated coffee and nicotine-free tobacco resulted in higher levels of the neuroprotectant glutathione than those in wild-type flies. In other <i>Drosophila</i> models of PD and AD, a diet supplemented with one of the two extracts or with the coffee-derived sterol cafestol led to less neuronal degeneration, fewer motor defects or longer life spans than did normal diets. Future studies could include testing the extracts in animal models of PD and AD and identifying other extract components that target NRF2.</p> <p>SciBX 3(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.529 Published online April 29, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Trinh, K. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online April 21, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4777-09.2010</p> <p>Contact: Leo Pallanck, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: pallanck@u.washington.edu</p>