This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	ATP-binding cassette sub-family C member 8 (ABCC8; SUR1)	<p>A study in human samples and in rodents suggests that inhibiting ABCC8 could help promote recovery after SCI. In postmortem tissue from people with SCI, white and gray matter from regions adjacent to the sites of damage showed significantly higher SUR1 expression than that in remote tissue areas ($p < 0.05$). In rat SCI models, systemic infusion of an <i>Abcc8</i> antisense oligodeoxynucleotide significantly reduced secondary hemorrhage compared with infusion of scrambled oligodeoxynucleotide ($p < 0.01$). Injured mice treated with the <i>Abcc8</i> antisense oligodeoxynucleotide or glibenclamide also had smaller lesions and better recovery of neurological function than controls. Next steps include evaluating an <i>ABCC8</i> antisense oligodeoxynucleotide in clinical trials. Glibenclamide inhibits SUR1 and is a generic sulfonylurea used to treat type 2 diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 3(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.531 Published online April 29, 2010</p>	Patented; licensed to Remedy Pharmaceuticals Inc.	<p>Simard, J.M. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online April 21, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000522</p> <p>Contact: J. Marc Simard, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: msimard@mail.umaryland.edu</p>