This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF); neurotrophic tyrosine kinase receptor 2 (NTRK2; TrkB)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies suggest that small molecule BDNF mimetics could help treat neurodegenerative diseases. <i>In vitro</i> studies identified compounds that structurally mimicked the portion of BDNF that binds and activates its receptor, TrkB. In cell-culture models of Alzheimer's disease (AD), Huntington's disease (HD) and Parkinson's disease (PD), the mimetics produced reductions in neuronal cell death that were comparable to those seen using BDNF. In a mouse model of traumatic brain injury, intranasal delivery of one of the mimetics improved motor function compared with delivery of vehicle. Next steps include studying the BDNF mimetics in animal models of neurological diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 3(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.563 Published online May 6, 2010</p>	IP covering the BDNF mimetics owned by The University of North Carolina and the University of California, San Francisco; exclusively licensed to Pharmatrophix Inc.	<p>Massa, S. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online April 19, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI41356</p> <p>Contact: Frank M. Longo, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: longo@stanford.edu</p>