This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Nerve damage; neurology; stroke	Downstream regulatory element antagonistic modulator (DREAM); NMDAR (GRIN)	A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that increasing <i>DREAM</i> signaling could help prevent excitotoxicity-induced nerve damage that leads to brain ischemia and neurodegenerative disease. In mouse hippocampal neurons, overexpression of <i>DREAM</i> decreased excitotoxicity induced by NMDAR compared with overexpression of a control protein. In a mouse model of focal cerebral ischemia, a cell-permeable <i>DREAM</i> -derived peptide reduced infarct volume and edema compared with scrambled control peptide. Next steps include finding an effective dosing level and time window for the compound and comparing different delivery methods.	Chinese patent application filed covering fusion peptide based on <i>DREAM</i> fragment and its utilization; unavailable for licensing	Zhang, Y. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online June 2, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1312-10.2010 Contact: Yun Wang, Peking University, Beijing, China e-mail: wangy66@bjmu.edu.cn
SciBX 3(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.710				
Published online June 10, 2010				