This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Neuraminidase (NEU1; SIAL1)	<p>A study in rats suggests that <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> neu1 could improve post-SCI recovery. In a rat model of SCI, intrathecal delivery of <i>V. cholerae</i> neu1 improved recovery of motor and autonomic function compared with delivery of saline vehicle control ($p < 0.05$ for both). Next steps include evaluating neu1 in combination with other compounds in development to treat SCI, including the recombinant enzyme chondroitinase.</p> <p>Acorda Therapeutics Inc.'s chondroitinase ABCI, a bacterial enzyme that breaks down growth-inhibitory chondroitin sulfate proteoglycans (CSPGs), is in preclinical development to treat SCI.</p> <p>SciBX 3(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.741 Published online June 17, 2010</p>	Patent status undisclosed; available for licensing	<p>Mountney, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 7, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1006683107</p> <p>Contact: Ronald L. Schnaar, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: schnaar@jhu.edu</p>