This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Fragile X syndrome	GABA receptor	<p>Studies in tissue culture suggest that GABA activation in the amygdala could help treat hyperexcitability associated with fragile X syndrome. In amygdala slices isolated from a mouse model of fragile X syndrome, inhibitory signals were lower than those in slices from wild-type controls. In the same slices, a GABA agonist restored neuron excitability to levels comparable to those for wild-type neurons treated with artificial cerebrospinal fluid. Next steps include identifying a therapeutic approach that can specifically target the amygdala.</p> <p>Arbaclofen, a GABA_B receptor agonist from Seaside Therapeutics Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat fragile X syndrome.</p> <p>SciBX 3(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.901 Published online July 29, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Olmos-Serrano, J.L. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online July 21, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1714-10.2010 Contact: Molly M. Huntsman, Children's National Medical Center, Washington, D.C. e-mail: MHuntsman@cnmcresearch.org Contact: Joshua G. Corbin, same affiliation as above e-mail: JCorbin@cnmcresearch.org</p>