This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	Mitochondrial permeability transition pore (mPTP); cyclophilin D (CYPD)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that inhibiting mPTP could help treat neurodegenerative diseases. In mouse sciatic or optic nerve explants, cyclosporine bound to Cypd, a component of mPTP, and decreased axonal degeneration compared with vehicle. In rat dorsal root ganglion neuron explants, anti-Cypd small hairpin RNA delayed axonal degeneration and lowered the number of degenerating neurons compared with control shRNA. Next steps include testing mPTP blockers in animal models. SciBX 4(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.135 Published online Feb. 3, 2011	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Barrientos, S.A. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Jan. 19, 2011; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4065-10.2011 Contact: Felipe A. Court, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Santiago, Chile e-mail: court.felipe@gmail.com or fcourt@bio.puc.cl