This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	V-abl Abelson murine leukemia viral oncogene homolog 1 (ABL1); parkin (PARK2)	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest that antagonizing ABL1 could help treat PD. In a mouse model of PD, intracranial injection of the ABL1 inhibitor Gleevec imatinib decreased neurodegeneration compared with injection of saline control. Next steps include testing ABL1 inhibitors in a primate model of PD.</p> <p>Novartis AG markets Gleevec, which inhibits ABL1 and its oncogenic fusion protein BCR-ABL, to treat chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) and gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST). At least eight other companies have BCR-ABL inhibitors on the market or in development for a range of cancer, autoimmune and neurology indications.</p> <p>SciBX 4(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.136 Published online Feb. 3, 2011</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Imam, S.Z. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Jan. 5, 2011; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1833-10.2011</p> <p>Contact: Senlin Li, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas e-mail: lis1@uthscsa.edu</p> <p>Contact: Syed Z. Imam, same affiliation as above e-mail: imam@uthscsa.edu</p>