This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Huntington's disease (HD)	Caspase-3 (CASP3; CPP32); caspase-6 (CASP6; MCH2); huntingtin (HTT)	<p>A study in cell culture identified small molecule dual CASP3 and CASP6 inhibitors that could help treat HD. Caspase-mediated cleavage of HTT has been implicated in HD. <i>In vitro</i>, the inhibitors protected against CASP3- and CASP6-mediated HTT cleavage compared with no inhibitor. In primary cocultures of rat striatal and cortical neurons expressing HTT, the inhibitors decreased neuronal cell death compared with vehicle control. Next steps include evaluating the compounds in mouse models of HD.</p> <p>SciBX 4(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.19 Published online Jan. 6, 2011</p>	Patent application pending; available for licensing through the Buck Institute Technology Transfer Office	<p>Leyva, M.J. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Nov. 24, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2010.08.014</p> <p>Contact: Jonathan A. Ellman, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: jonathan.ellman@yale.edu</p> <p>Contact: Lisa M. Ellerby, Buck Institute, Novato, Calif. e-mail: lellerby@buckinstitute.org</p>