This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Glial cell-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF)	<p>Studies in rats suggest that zinc finger protein (ZFP) activators of GDNF could help treat PD. In human cell lines, a ZFP activator of human GDNF resulted in greater expression of the growth factor than a control vector. In a rat model of PD, striatal delivery of the GDNF activator led to fewer disease symptoms than delivery of a control vector. Next steps include evaluating the ZFP activators of GDNF in nonhuman primate models of PD. Sangamo BioSciences Inc. has ZFP activators of GDNF in preclinical development for PD.</p> <p>SciBX 4(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.20 Published online Jan. 6, 2011</p>	Patent status undisclosed; available for licensing	<p>Laganier, J. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Dec. 8, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2440-10.2010</p> <p>Contact: H. Steve Zhang, Sangamo BioSciences Inc., Richmond, Calif. e-mail: szhang@sangamo.com</p>