This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Not applicable	<p>Studies in patient tissues and in mice suggest that there is an early stage of reversible axonal damage that could be targeted to treat MS. In tissue from MS patients, axonal swelling and fragmentation could be observed in myelinated axons, suggesting that an early form of axonal damage could precede demyelination. In mice with experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), <i>in vivo</i> imaging identified an early disease stage characterized by axonal and mitochondrial swelling that sometimes progressed to axonal fragmentation and then demyelination. Next steps include identifying specific molecular mechanisms and therapeutic targets for this early stage of the disease.</p> <p>SciBX 4(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.391 Published online April 7, 2011</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Nikić, I. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online March 27, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2324</p> <p>Contact: Martin Kerschensteiner, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Munich, Germany e-mail: Martin.Kerschensteiner@med.uni-muenchen.de</p>