This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Stroke	Caspase-6 (CASP6; MCH2); CASP9 (MCH6)	<i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies suggest inhibiting CASP9 or CASP6 after stroke could improve outcomes. In a rat stroke model, intranasal delivery of a CASP9 inhibitor before or after arterial occlusion decreased stroke volume and neurofunctional disability compared with delivery of vehicle control. In a mouse model of cerebral ischemia, <i>Casp6</i> knockout increased neurological function and lowered infarct size compared with wild-type <i>Casp6</i> expression. Next steps include further validating the efficacy of the intranasal inhibitor and determining long-term functional outcomes.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Akpan, N. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online June 15, 2011; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0698-11.2011 Contact: Nsikan Akpan, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: nea2107@columbia.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 4(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.744 Published online June 30, 2011				