This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); Parkinson's disease (PD)	Superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1)	<p>Mouse and worm studies suggest a new class of carbazoles could help treat ALS and PD. Previous work identified a lead aminopropylcarbazole that prevented apoptosis of hippocampal neurons in newborn mice. In a mutant <i>SOD1</i> mouse model of ALS, an optimized aminopropylcarbazole increased survival of spinal motor neurons, delayed disease onset and decreased loss of motor function compared with vehicle. In mouse and <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i> models of chemically induced PD, the optimized carbazole increased survival of dopaminergic neurons compared with vehicle. Ongoing work in collaboration with 2M BioTech L.P. includes testing the aminopropylcarbazoles in models of traumatic brain injury and peripheral nerve injury.</p> <p>SciBX 5(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1059 Published online Oct. 11, 2012</p>	Patented by The University of Texas System and 2M Biotech; available for licensing or partnering	<p>De Jesús-Cortés, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 1, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1213956109</p> <p>Tesla, R. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 1, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1213960109</p> <p>Contact: Andrew A. Pieper, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: andrew-pieper@uiowa.edu</p> <p>Contact: Steven L. McKnight, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: steven.mcknight@utsouthwestern.edu</p> <p>Contact: Joseph M. Ready, same affiliation as above e-mail: joseph.ready@utsouthwestern.edu</p>