This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Nuclear factor of activated T cells cytoplasmic calcineurin-dependent (NFATc); calcineurin	<p>Mouse studies suggest astrocyte-specific delivery of the synthetic peptide VIVIT could help to treat AD. An adeno-associated virus (AAV) vector containing an astrocyte-specific promoter was used to express VIVIT, which inhibits the NFATc and calcineurin signaling pathway. In a mouse model of AD, hippocampal injection of the vector during early stages of disease progression led to astrocyte-specific expression of VIVIT and increased cognitive and synaptic function compared with vehicle. Next steps include testing the VIVIT-expressing vector in mice with late-stage AD and in an aging canine model of AD.</p> <p>SciBX 5(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1212 Published online Nov. 29, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Furman, J.L. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Nov. 14, 2012; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2323-12.2012 Contact: Christopher M. Norris, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington, Ky. e-mail: cnorr2@email.uky.edu</p>