This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA; FOLH1; GCPII)	Human and mouse studies suggest inhibiting GCPII could help treat cognitive impairments associated with MS. In newly diagnosed patients with relapsing-remitting MS, magnetic resonance spectroscopy of brains showed that low levels of N-acetylaspartylglutamate (NAAG) correlated with cognitive dysfunction. In mice with experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), increasing levels of NAAG with a GCPII inhibitor did not affect physical disease symptoms but increased cognitive functions, including memory and learning, compared with vehicle control. Next steps include identifying new GCPII inhibitors or delivery vehicles.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Rahn, K.A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Nov. 19, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1209934109 Contact: Adam I. Kaplin, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: akaplin@jhmi.edu Contact: Barbara S. Slusher, same affiliation as above e-mail: bslusher@jhmi.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 5(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1227 Published online Dec. 6, 2012				