This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Nerve damage	Acetylcholinesterase (AChE); butyrylcholinesterase (BuChE)	<p>Studies <i>in vitro</i> and in mice suggest amidine-oxime-based compounds could help reverse organophosphate nerve agent poisoning. Organophosphates including sarin and some pesticides covalently modify and inactivate AChE and BuChE, thus blocking neurotransmission. <i>In vitro</i>, amidine-oxime compounds increased the activity of organophosphate-inhibited AChE and BuChE compared with vehicle. In mice with organophosphate poisoning, a lead amidine-oxime compound decreased behavioral abnormalities and increased survival compared with vehicle. Next steps include IND-enabling toxicology studies.</p> <p>SciBX 5(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.132 Published online Feb. 2, 2012</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Kalisiak, J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Dec. 29, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm201364d Contact: John R. Cashman, Human BioMolecular Research Institute, San Diego, Calif. e-mail: jcashman@hbri.org</p>