This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Purinergic receptor P2X ligand-gated ion channel 4 (P2RX4; P2X4)	Mouse studies suggest inhibiting P2X4 could help improve recovery following SCI. In a mouse model of SCI, P2x4 levels were greater in spinal cord neurons than in control neurons. In the mouse model, P2x4 knockout decreased lesion size and microglia and macrophage infiltration into the spinal cord, and increased functional recovery compared with wild-type P2x4 expression. Next steps could include developing P2X4 inhibitors.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	de Rivero Vaccari, J.P. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Feb. 29, 2012; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4930-11.2012 Contact: Steve Lacroix, Center Hospital of the Laval University Research Center, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada e-mail: steve.lacroix@crchul.ulaval.ca
SciBX 5(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.287 Published online March 15, 2012				