This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	UbiA prenyltransferase domain containing 1 (UBIAD1)	<p><i>Drosophila</i> studies suggest improving vitamin K₂ production could help treat diseases involving mitochondrial dysfunction, including PD. Heix, the <i>Drosophila</i> analog of human UBIAD1, converts vitamin K₁ to vitamin K₂ in mitochondria. In <i>Drosophila</i> with PD-related mutations, <i>Heix</i> knockouts had greater mitochondrial dysfunction and flight defects than <i>Heix</i>-expressing controls. In the <i>Heix</i> knockout <i>Drosophila</i> with PD-related mutations, <i>Heix</i> overexpression or vitamin K₂ supplementation restored mitochondrial function. Next steps include determining the role of vitamin K₂ in other small animal models of PD.</p> <p>SciBX 5(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.558 Published online May 24, 2012</p>	Findings unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Vos, M. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online May 10, 2012; doi:10.1126/science.1218632 Contact: Patrik Verstreken, Catholic University Leuven, Leuven, Belgium e-mail: patrik.verstreken@med.kuleuven.be</p>