This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Nerve damage	Sterile α and TIR motif containing 1 (SARM1)	<i>In vitro</i> , fly and mouse studies suggest inhibiting SARM1 could help prevent axon loss after injury. A <i>Drosophila</i> screen identified loss-of-function mutations in the fly homolog of <i>Sarm1</i> that protected <i>ex vivo</i> axons from postinjury degeneration. In axotomized mice, <i>Sarm1</i> knockout decreased and delayed axon degeneration compared with normal <i>Sarm1</i> expression. In the <i>Sarm1</i> ^{-/-} mice, 61.2% of axons were protected from degeneration after induction of sciatic nerve lesions. Next steps include identifying ways to block SARM1 function in humans.	Patent applications filed; available for licensing	Osterloh, J.M. <i>et al. Science</i> ; published online June 7, 2012; doi:10.1126/science.1223899 Contact: Marc R. Freeman, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Mass. e-mail: marc.freeman@umassmed.edu
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