This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology; stroke	Protein kinase B (PKB; PKBA; AKT; AKT1)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified an AKT activator that could help treat neurological conditions including stroke. A cell-based, high throughput, chemical, genetic screen identified a small molecule AKT activator. In cultured cortical neurons, the AKT activator decreased excitotoxicity-induced neuronal cell death compared with vehicle. In a mouse model of ischemic stroke, intraperitoneal injection of the AKT activator decreased neuronal cell death and lesion size compared with vehicle. Next steps could include testing the activator in additional disease models.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Jo, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 11, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1202810109 Contact: Hongbo R. Luo, Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber/ Harvard Cancer Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: hongbo.luo@childrens.harvard.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 5(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.735 Published online July 19, 2012				