This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Mitochondrial complex 1 (MC-1)	<p>Rat studies suggest a fusion protein consisting of the rabies virus glycoprotein (RVG) linked to a cytomegalovirus (CMV)-derived RNA sequence could help treat PD. The noncoding p137 RNA, which is derived from a human CMV transcript, was fused to an arginine-modified RVG to facilitate delivery across the blood brain barrier (BBB). In adult rats, tail vein injection of the RVG-p137 RNA conjugate three days after neurotoxin-induced injury of dopaminergic neurons led to better postinjury motor performance than injection of the same RVG peptide conjugated with a control RNA sequence. Next steps include determining the minimal subdomain of the p137 RNA required for neuroprotection and the time window for the fusion peptide's effects.</p> <p>SciBX 5(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.81 Published online Jan. 19, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing from Cambridge Enterprise Ltd.	<p>Kuan, W.-L. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Dec. 19, 2011; doi:10.1084/jem.20111126 Contact: John H. Sinclair, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: js@mole.bio.cam.ac.uk Contact: Roger A. Barker, same affiliation as above e-mail: rab46@cam.ac.uk</p>