This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Liver X receptor- β (NR1H2; LXR- β); LXR	<p>Mouse studies suggest LXR agonists could help treat PD. In a mouse model of chemically induced PD, <i>Lxr-β</i>-deficient mice had greater dopaminergic neurotoxicity and fewer dopamine-producing neurons than wild-type controls. In the same model, an LXR agonist protected wild-type mice from loss of dopaminergic neurons and fibers. Next steps include evaluating the agonist in additional PD models and also in models of Alzheimer's disease (AD). Exelixis Inc.'s LXR agonist, XL652, is in Phase I testing to treat metabolic syndrome.</p> <p>SciBX 5(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.846 Published online Aug. 16, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Dai, Y.-b. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 23, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1210833109 Contact: Jan-Åke Gustafsson, University of Houston, Houston, Texas e-mail: jgustafsson@uh.edu</p>