This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	Nuclear factor (erythroid-derived 2)-like 2 (NFE2L2; NRF2); glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP)	<p>Mouse studies suggest increasing NRF2 activity could help treat Alexander disease, a neurodegenerative condition caused by a <i>GFAP</i> mutation. In a mouse model of Alexander disease, overexpression of the Nrf2 transcription factor restored body weight and decreased Gfap levels and Gfap protein inclusions in the brain compared with normal Nrf2 expression. Next steps include identifying a compound that can increase Nrf2 activity in the brain.</p> <p>At least four companies have NRF2 activators in clinical and preclinical testing for various diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 5(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.847 Published online Aug. 16, 2012</p>	Unpatented; genetic mouse model available for licensing	<p>LaPash Daniels, C.M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Aug. 1, 2012; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1494-12.2012</p> <p>Contact: Christine M. LaPash Daniels, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wis. e-mail: lapashdaniel@waisman.wisc.edu</p>