This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Huntington's disease (HD)	Huntingtin (HTT)	<p>Fly, mouse and neuron culture studies suggest methylene blue, a compound known to reduce aggregation of β-amyloid (Aβ) and microtubule-associated protein-τ (MAPT; TAU; FTDP-17), could help treat HD. In cultured mouse primary cortical neurons expressing mutant Htt, methylene blue decreased Htt aggregate levels and increased neuron survival compared with no treatment. In a <i>Drosophila</i> model of HD, methylene blue decreased htt aggregation and neurodegeneration compared with vehicle control. In a mouse model of HD, methylene blue decreased Htt levels and HD-associated impairments compared with vehicle control. Next steps include testing the compound in clinical trials.</p> <p>TauRx Pharmaceuticals Ltd.'s Rember methylene blue is in Phase II testing to treat Alzheimer's disease (AD).</p> <p>SciBX 5(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.871 Published online Aug. 23, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Sontag, E.M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Aug. 8, 2012; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0895-12.2012</p> <p>Contact: Leslie M. Thompson, University of California, Irvine, Calif. e-mail: lmthomps@uci.edu</p>