This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Blindness	Bardet-Biedl syndrome 12 (BBS12)	Mouse studies suggest inhibiting the proapoptotic, unfolded protein response could help prevent retinal degeneration in Bardet-Biedl syndrome, which is associated with mutations in <i>BBS</i> genes. In mice, a <i>Bbs12</i> deficiency led to retinal abnormalities and increased photoreceptor apoptosis compared with normal <i>Bbs12</i> expression. In <i>Bbs12</i>-deficient mice, two compounds that inhibited the proapoptotic unfolded protein response via different mechanisms slowed photoreceptor loss compared with no treatment. Next steps could include screening for additional inhibitors of the unfolded protein response in the mouse model. SciBX 5(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.873 Published online Aug. 23, 2012	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Mockel, A. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Aug. 6, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M112.386821 Contact: Vincent Marion, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) and University of Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France e-mail: vincent.marion@unistra.fr