This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD); amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); Parkinson's disease (PD); Huntington's disease (HD)	Neural precursor cell expressed developmentally downregulated 4 E3 ubiquitin protein ligase (NEDD4; NEDD4-1)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting NEDD4-1 could help treat neurodegenerative diseases. In brain and spinal cord tissue samples from patients with neurodegenerative diseases, NEDD4-1 levels were greater than those in samples from healthy controls. In cultured rat primary cortical neurons and in mice, exposure to neurotoxins increased Nedd4-1 levels compared with no exposure. In mouse neuroblastoma cells, inhibiting Nedd4-1 signaling decreased neurotoxin-induced cell death compared with no inhibition. Next steps could include developing a NEDD4-1 inhibitor.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Kwak, Y.-D. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Aug. 8, 2012; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1836-12.2012 Contact: Francesca-Fang Liao, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: fliao@uthsc.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 5(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.904 Published online Aug. 30, 2012				