This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD); Parkinson's disease (PD)	Proteasome	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting proteasome activity could help treat neurodegenerative diseases. In a mouse model of neurodegeneration, a proteasome inhibitor delayed neurodegeneration and extended survival. Compared with vehicle, the proteasome inhibitor increased assembly of the soluble, N-ethylmaleimide-sensitive fusion protein-attachment protein receptor (SNARE) complex, which is required for normal neuronal function. Next steps include testing additional drugs in animal models.</p> <p>At least five companies have proteasome inhibitors in stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 5(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.935 Published online Sept. 6, 2012</p>	Findings unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Sharma, M. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 15, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3004028 Contact: Manu Sharma, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: sharma11@stanford.edu Contact: Thomas C. Südhof, same affiliation as above e-mail: tcs1@stanford.edu</p>