This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2 α kinase 3 (EIF2AK3; PERK)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting PERK could help treat prion-associated diseases. Misfolded prion proteins in the brain activate PERK to trigger the unfolded protein response, which shuts down the normal translation process required for neuron function and survival. In mice infected with prions, the oral PERK inhibitor GSK2606414 prevented further neurodegeneration and the associated behavioral and memory symptoms. In the brains of treated mice, normal protein translation was restored. Next steps could include testing PERK inhibitors in additional models of prion-associated diseases. GlaxoSmithKline plc collaborated on the study. The pharma has no disclosed PERK inhibitors in development.</p> <p>GSK2606414 is a research reagent.</p> <p>SciBX 6(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1232 Published online Nov. 7, 2013</p>	Patent application filed by GlaxoSmithKline covering GSK2606414 and other PERK inhibitors; licensing status unavailable	<p>Moreno, J.A. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 9, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3006767</p> <p>Contact: Giovanna R. Mallucci, University of Leicester, Leicester, U.K. e-mail: grm7@le.ac.uk</p>