This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neuropathic pain	Not applicable	<p>Studies in rats suggest the small molecule natural product huperzine A could help treat neuropathic pain associated with spinal cord injury (SCI). In a rat model of compression-induced SCI, huperzine A decreased pain hypersensitivity to mechanical stimuli in the forepaw and hindpaw at four weeks after injury compared with saline control. Histopathological and immunocytochemical studies showed that huperzine A reduced levels of multiple inflammation markers in the damaged cervical and lumbar spinal cord regions of the rats. Next steps include characterizing huperzine A in additional rodent models of SCI.</p> <p>Insero Health Inc. has huperzine A in Phase Ib testing to treat drug-resistant epilepsy.</p> <p>SciBX 6(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.170 Published online Feb. 21, 2013</p>	Findings patented; exclusively licensed to Insero Health	<p>Yu, D. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 5, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1300083110</p> <p>Contact: Yang D. Teng, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: yang_teng@hms.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Richard L. Sidman, same affiliation as above e-mail: richard_sidman@hms.harvard.edu</p>