This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Down syndrome	Sorting nexin family member 27 (SNX27)	<p>Patient sample and mouse studies suggest increasing SNX27 expression could help treat Down syndrome. In brain samples from patients with Down syndrome, SNX27 mRNA and protein levels were lower than those in healthy controls. In <i>Snx27</i>^{-/-} mice, learning, memory and synaptic function were impaired. In a mouse model for Down syndrome, hippocampus injection of an adenovirus expressing human SNX27 rescued synaptic and cognitive deficits. Next steps include screening for compounds that activate SNX27 production.</p> <p>SciBX 6(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.316 Published online April 4, 2013</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Wang, X. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online March 24, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3117 Contact: Huaxi Xu, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China e-mail: hxxu@xmu.edu.cn Contact: Wanjin Hong, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: xuh@sanfordburnham.org</p>