This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Other				
Hearing loss	Neurotrophic tyrosine kinase receptor 2 (NTRK2; TrkB)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest TrkB agonists could help treat hearing loss. In neurotrophin-depleted cochlear cultures, TrkB agonists increased survival of spinal ganglion neurons (SGNs) compared with no treatment. In patch-clamp studies on auditory SGNs, pretreatment with TrkB agonists increased currents compared with no treatment. In a mouse model of deafness, TrkB agonists decreased electrically evoked auditory response thresholds and increased SGN density. Next steps include preclinical and IND-enabling studies of a TrkB agonist prodrug.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Yu, Q. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Aug. 7, 2013; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0854-13.2013 Contact: Xi Lin, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: xlin2@emory.edu Contact: Keqiang Ye, same affiliation as above e-mail: kye@emory.edu
SciBX 6(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.935 Published online Sept. 5, 2013				