This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Methyltransferase like 21A (METTL21A); heat shock 70 kDa protein 8 (HspA8; HSC70)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest inhibiting METTL21A activity could help treat PD. In assays and in protein extracts from cell cultures and mouse tissues, METTL21A trimethylated a lysine residue on Hsp70 family members, including HspA8. In purified α -synuclein (SNCA), unmethylated HspA8 prevented pathological aggregation of SNCA, whereas HspA8 methylated by METTL21A did not. Next steps include testing the effects of METTL21A modulation in models of PD.	Findings unpatented; METTL21A- specific antibody available for licensing as a research tool	Jakobsson, M.E. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i> ; published online Aug. 6, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.483248 Contact: Pål O. Falnes, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway e-mail: pal.falnes@ibv.uio.no
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