This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease	Calcineurin; α -synuclein (SNCA)	<p>Cell culture and animal studies suggest calcineurin inhibitors could help treat PD and other α-synucleinopathies. In a transgenic mouse model of SNCA toxicity and in brain tissue from patients with PD or dementia with Lewy bodies, levels of cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} and Ca^{2+}-activated calcineurin were higher than those in normal mice or tissue from healthy individuals. In SCNA-expressing rodent dopaminergic neurons, moderate doses of the calcineurin inhibitor Prograf tacrolimus decreased SCNA-induced cell death compared with high and low doses of the drug. Ongoing work includes testing Prograf in rodent models of PD. Astellas Pharma Inc. markets Prograf (FK506) to treat multiple transplant and autoimmune indications.</p> <p>SciBX 7(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1051 Published online Sept. 11, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Caraveo, G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 13, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1413201111 Contact: Susan Lindquist, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: lindquist@wi.mit.edu</p>