This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	Nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase (NamPRT; NAMPT)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies have identified a series of aminopropyl carbazole-based NAMPT inhibitors that could help treat traumatic brain injury. Derivatives of the aminopropyl carbazole P7C3 have previously been shown to act as neuroprotective agents in mouse models of neurological diseases, but their mechanism of action was unclear. <i>In vitro</i> photocrosslinking assays with a P7C3 derivative identified NAMPT as a target, and further <i>in vitro</i> assays showed that P7C3-derived compounds can activate purified NAMPT enzyme. In a mouse model of traumatic brain injury, a P7C3 derivative decreased axonal degradation and improved memory compared with vehicle. Next steps include synthesizing additional compounds and elucidating the mechanisms underlying the neuroprotective effects of NAMPT activation.</p> <p>SciBX 7(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1161 Published online Oct. 9, 2014</p>	Patent applications filed for findings from both studies; licensed to Calico LLC	<p>Wang, G. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Sept. 11, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2014.07.040 Contact: Steven L. McKnight, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: steven.mcknight@utsouthwestern.edu</p> <p>Contact: Joseph M. Ready, same affiliation as above e-mail: joseph.ready@utsouthwestern.edu</p> <p>Yin, T.C. <i>et al. Cell Rep.</i>; published online Sept. 15, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.celrep.2014.08.030 Contact: Andrew A. Pieper, The University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: andrew-pieper@uiowa.edu</p>