This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Huntington's disease (HD)	Cystathionase (CTH)	<p>Studies in mice and human samples suggest dietary supplementation with cysteine could help prevent neurotoxicity in patients with HD. The enzyme CTH generates cysteine from cystathionine. In mouse models of HD and in patient tissue samples, CTH levels were lower in HD-relevant brain regions than those in healthy mice or samples from healthy subjects. In a transgenic mouse model of HD, a cysteine-enriched diet delayed motor abnormalities, partially reverted loss of brain weight and extended survival, whereas a normal diet did not. Next steps could include investigating additional cysteine-related therapies in animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 7(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.467 Published online April 24, 2014</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Paul, B.D. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online March 26, 2014; doi:10.1038/nature13136 Contact: Solomon H. Snyder, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: ssnyder@jhmi.edu</p>