This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Huntington's disease (HD)	Potassium channel Kir4.1 (KCNJ10)	<p>Mouse studies suggest increasing Kir4.1 expression could help treat HD. In mouse models of HD, striatal astrocytes were more depolarized and had lower Kir4.1 currents than those in wild-type mice. In a mouse model of HD, viral vector-mediated expression of Kir4.1 in astrocytes prolonged survival and improved motor properties; it also decreased striatal astrocyte depolarization and increased Kir4.1 currents compared with viral vector-mediated expression of a control protein. Next steps could include optimizing viral vectors for therapeutic delivery of Kir4.1 or designing compounds to augment channel activity.</p> <p>SciBX 7(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.497 Published online May 1, 2014</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Tong, X. <i>et al. Nature Neurosci.</i>; published online March 30, 2014; doi:10.1038/nn.3691 Contact: Baljit S. Khakh, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: bkhakh@mednet.ucla.edu Contact: Michael V. Sofroniew, same affiliation as above e-mail: sofroniew@mednet.ucla.edu</p>