This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan (CSPG)	<p>Rat studies suggest lentivirus-delivered, mammalian-optimized chondroitinase ABC (ChABC) could help treat SCI. Levels of extracellular matrix-associated CSPGs increase and inhibit repair processes following SCI. In rats with spinal cord contusions, spinal injections of lentivirus expressing the optimized ChABC promoted more digestion of CSPGs than injections of bacterial ChABC protein. In these mice, lentivirus delivery of the optimized ChABC increased the number of surviving neurons at injury centers compared with control virus delivery or no treatment and improved conduction of spinal axons and performance in motor tasks. Next steps could include assessing the effect of long-term ChABC expression on pain sensitivity and developing inducible expression systems for the optimized enzyme.</p> <p>SciBX 7(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.498 Published online May 1, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Bartus, K. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online April 2, 2014; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4369-13.2014 Contact: Elizabeth J. Bradbury, King's College London, London, U.K. e-mail: elizabeth.bradbury@kcl.ac.uk</p>