This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Myocyte enhanced factor 2C (MEF2C)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest increasing MEF2C expression could help treat PD. In dopaminergic neurons derived from human induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells expressing α-synuclein (SNCA) A53T, compared with cells expressing wild-type SNCA, mitochondrial-damaging pesticides linked to PD caused S-nitrosylation of MEF2C and decreased its expression. In dopaminergic neurons expressing mutant SNCA, pretreatment with an inhibitor of S-nitrosylation or isoxazole protected cells from toxin-induced apoptosis. Both compounds were identified in a screen for activators of neuronal MEF2 (D-MEF2) transcription. Next steps include testing whether the effects of pesticides are associated with other PD mutations.</p> <p>SciBX 7(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.63 Published online Jan. 16, 2014</p>	Patents issued covering MEF2C and relevant neuroprotective agents; available for licensing	<p>Ryan, S.D. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Nov. 27, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2013.11.009 Contact: Stuart A. Lipton, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: slipton@sbmri.org Contact: Rajesh Ambasudhan, same affiliation as above e-mail: rajesh@sbmri.org Contact: Rudolf Jaenisch, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: jaenisch@wi.mit.edu</p>