This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Huntington's disease (HD)	p75 neurotrophin receptor (p75 NTR)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting p75 NTR could help treat HD. In a mouse model of HD, expression of the two putative HD targets <i>brain-derived neurotrophic factor (Bdnf)</i> and its receptor, <i>neurotrophic tyrosine kinase receptor 2 (Ntrk2; TrkB)</i>, were normal, but Bdnf-dependent synaptic potentiation was decreased compared with that in normal mice. In the HD mouse model, shRNA knockdown or peptide-mediated inhibition of the downstream TrkB target p75 Ntr restored Bdnf-dependent synaptic potentiation. Next steps include identifying selective small molecule antagonists of p75 NTR and identifying other potential targets in the pathway.</p> <p>Sanofi has the p75 NTR antagonist SAR127963 in Phase I testing to treat shock/trauma.</p> <p>SciBX 7(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.871 Published online July 31, 2014</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Plotkin, J.L. <i>et al. Neuron</i>; published online July 2, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2014.05.032 Contact: D. James Surmeier, Northwestern University, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: j-surmeier@northwestern.edu</p>