

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Huntington's disease (HD)	IL-4; IL-6; IL-8; IL-10; tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α)	A study in human plasma samples identified serum cytokine biomarkers that could be useful for monitoring HD progression. Compared with plasma in healthy controls, plasma from patients with progressive HD had significantly higher levels of IL-4 ($p < 0.001$), IL-6 and IL-8 ($p < 0.0001$), and IL-10 and TNF- α ($p < 0.01$). The increased IL-6 levels could be detected an estimated mean of 16 years before motor onset in patients. Levels of IL-8 and TNF- α also correlated with disease symptoms ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include validating the identified biomarkers in longitudinal studies of patients.	Not patented; unavailable for licensing	Björkqvist, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Exp. Med.</i> ; published online July 14, 2008; doi:10.1084/jem.20080178 Contact: Sarah J. Tabrizi, Institute of Neurology, London, U.K. e-mail: sarah.tabrizi@prion.ucl.ac.uk