This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Epilepsy	*NaV1.7* (*SCN9A*)	Genetic association and mouse studies suggest that mutations in *SCN9A* could help predict susceptibility to epileptic seizures. A mutation in *SCN9A* occurred in epileptics with febrile seizure but was absent in nonepileptic controls. Also, 8% of patients with severe myoclonic infant epilepsy (Dravet syndrome) had missense variants in the gene. In mice, expression of the equivalent mutation in *Scn9a* increased the animals' susceptibility to electrically induced seizures. Next steps include developing an *in vitro* assay to find compounds that directly bind *SCN9A* and testing such compounds for bioavailability, toxicity and efficacy in rodent models of epilepsy. ***SciBX*** **2(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1448** **Published online Oct. 1, 2009**	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Singh, N. *et al. PLoS Genet.*; published online Sept. 18, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000649 **Contact:** Nanda A. Singh, The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah e-mail: nsingh@genetics.utah.edu