This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1); Ras homolog enriched in brain (RHEB)	<p>A study in rats suggests that rapamycin may be useful for treating SCI. In rats with ischemia-induced SCI, rapamycin lowered the expression of markers associated with astrocyte migration and proliferation compared with that seen in vehicle-treated controls. Astrocytes are known to migrate to sites of SCI and proliferate, thus hindering healing. Next steps include determining a dosing protocol and evaluating rapamycin-associated functional recovery in SCI.</p> <p>Rapamune rapamycin (sirolimus) and Afinitor/Certican everolimus (RAD001) are mTOR inhibitors marketed by Wyeth and Novartis AG, respectively, for transplant rejection.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.202 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	Unpatented; available for licensing from the Burnham Institute for Medical Research	<p>Codeluppi, S. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Jan. 28, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4103-08.2009</p> <p>Contact: Elena B. Pasquale, Burnham Institute for Medical Research, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: elenap@burnham.org</p>