

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Retinal degeneration	Leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that agonizing LIF could be useful for preventing retinal degeneration. In a mouse model of retinitis pigmentosa, <i>Lif</i> knockouts led to accelerated photoreceptor degeneration compared with that seen in control mice. Intravitreal injection of recombinant Lif in <i>Lif</i> knockout mice restored a molecular intraretinal signaling system that protects retinal function and integrity. Next steps include investigating the mechanisms underlying the activation of LIF expression in damaged retina.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.26</b>  <b>Published online Jan. 8, 2009</b></p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Joly, S. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Dec. 17, 2008;            doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5114-08.2008  <b>Contact:</b> Christian Grimm, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland            e-mail:  <a href="mailto:cgrimm@ophth.uzh.ch">cgrimm@ophth.uzh.ch</a></p>