This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Huntington's disease (HD)	N-Methyl-D-aspartic acid receptor (NMDAR); glutamate receptor, ionotropic, N-methyl-D-aspartate 2B (GRIN2B; NR2B)	<p>A study in mice suggests that antagonizing NMDAR subunit NR2B could help treat HD. In a mouse model of HD, mice that overexpressed NR2B had higher levels of striatal neuron loss and dysfunction than controls expressing NR2B at normal levels. Next steps include testing whether modulating NR2B levels in various cortical regions affects striatal neurons in HD mice.</p> <p>Namenda memantine, an NMDAR antagonist, was discovered by Neurobiological Technologies Inc. and is marketed by Forest Laboratories Inc., Merz GmbH & Co. KGaA and H. Lundbeck A/S to treat Alzheimer's disease (AD).</p> <p>Evotec AG's ENS101 and Vistagen Therapeutics Inc.'s AV-101—both NMDAR antagonists—are in Phase I and preclinical testing, respectively, to treat AD and Parkinson's disease (PD).</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.464 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Heng, M.Y. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online March 11, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5599-08.2009</p> <p>Contact: Roger L. Albin, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: ralbin@umich.edu</p>