This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	c-jun N-terminal kinase (JNK); monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (CCL2; MCP-1)	A study in mice suggests that inhibiting the MCP-1/JNK pathway could be useful for treating neuropathic pain. In a mouse model of spinal nerve ligation, spinal injection of a JNK inhibitor significantly lowered MCP-1 upregulation and lowered sensitivity to mechanical- and heat-associated pain compared with what was seen using saline control injection ($p<0.05$). In the same model, an MCP-1 neutralizing antibody produced dose-dependent decreases in sensitivity to mechanical and heat-associated pain compared with what was seen in controls. Next steps include evaluating the efficacy and long-term safety of JNK and MCP-1 inhibitors in additional neuropathic pain models. AEG33773, a small molecule JNK inhibitor from Aegera Therapeutics Inc., is in Phase I testing to treat diabetic neuropathy. *SciBX* 2(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.548 Published online April 2, 2009	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Gao, Y.-J. *et al. J. Neurosci.*; published online April 1, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3623-08.2009 **Contact:** Ru-Rong Ji, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: rrji@zeus.bwh.harvard.edu