This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neuropathy	Sodium channels	<p>Human serum and rat studies suggest that targeting inactivated sodium channels could help treat certain forms of neuropathy in critically ill patients. In three patients who recovered from sepsis, sensory and motor nerve response decreased during worsening of critical illness but increased during recovery, suggesting that neuropathy may be rapidly reversible. In a rat model of sepsis, neuropathy was rapidly reversible and nerve action potential was restored with hyperpolarizing pulses, suggesting that sodium channel inactivation contributed to the rapidly reversible form of neuropathy. Next steps include studying how sodium channels are inactivated to determine how to target them. At least 14 companies have compounds to treat neuropathy in clinical and preclinical development.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.593 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; currently unavailable for licensing	<p>Novak, K. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online April 1, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI36570</p> <p>Contact: Mark M. Rich, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio e-mail: mark.rich@wright.edu</p>