This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Nerve damage	Mothers against decapentaplegic homolog 1 (MADH1; SMAD1)	Studies in mice suggest that enhancing SMAD1 signaling could help treat nerve damage. In mice, dorsal root ganglia with peripheral injury showed greater SMAD1 expression than uninjured neurons. In neuronal cell culture, small interfering RNA–mediated knockdown of SMAD1 decreased neurite length compared with control siRNA treatment ($p<0.001$). Transduction with an RNAi-resistant SMAD1 rescued the decreased neurite outgrowth caused by siRNA knockdown. Next steps could include studying the functional role of SMAD1 signaling in nerve repair. *SciBX* **2**(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.982 **Published online June 18, 2009**	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Zou, H. *et al. J. Neurosci.*; published online June 3, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5397-08.2009 **Contact:** Marc Tessier-Lavigne, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: marctl@gene.com