This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	v-abl Abelson murine leukemia viral oncogene homolog 1 (ABL1; c-Abl); parkin (PARK2)	<p>Mouse and human studies suggest that inhibiting c-Abl could help treat PD. In a mouse model of PD, neuron-specific knockout of <i>Abl1</i> increased Park2 activity and decreased neuronal cell death compared with those in wild-type mice. In the substantia nigra and striatum of postmortem human brain tissue, individuals with PD had higher c-Abl and lower Park2 activity than age-matched healthy controls. Next steps include testing the effects of brain permeable c-Abl inhibitors in animal PD models.</p> <p>At least eight companies have inhibitors of Bcr-Abl, an oncogenic fusion of c-Abl, in stages of development from clinical testing to marketed for cancer.</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Ko, H.S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 6, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1006083107</p> <p>Contact: Ted M. Dawson, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: tdawson@jhmi.edu</p>
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