

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that antagonizing mTOR in dopaminergic neurons could help treat PD. In a mouse model of PD, the mTOR inhibitor rapamycin increased autophagosome activity and lysosomal biogenesis and decreased neuron death compared with no treatment. Next steps could include testing mTOR antagonists in animal models of hereditary and sporadic PD. Rapamycin is a generic mTOR inhibitor. At least 15 companies have mTOR antagonists on the market and in development for a range of cancer, autoimmune and transplant indications.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Dehay, B. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Sept. 15, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1920-10.2010 Contact: Miquel Vila, Vall d'Hebron Research Institute, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: mvila@ir.vhebron.net Contact: Patricia Boya, Center for Biological Studies, Madrid, Spain e-mail: pboya@cib.csic.es
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