This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Thalassemia	Hepcidin antimicrobial peptide (HAMP)	Mouse studies suggest that HAMP or HAMP agonists could help treat β-thalassemia. Compared with healthy controls, β-thalassemia patients have low levels of HAMP, a protein that regulates iron metabolism and storage. In mouse models of β-thalassemia, transgenic mice overexpressing HAMP in the liver had decreases in iron overload, spleen enlargement and anemia compared with wild-type mice. Ongoing work includes synthesizing and testing peptide agonists of HAMP to treat β-thalassemia and iron overload. SciBX 3(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1421 Published online Dec. 9, 2010	Peptide agonists of HAMP patented by the University of California; available for licensing Contact: Elizabeta Nemeth, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: enemeth@mednet.ucla.edu	Gardenghi, S. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Nov. 22, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI41717 Contact: Stefano Rivella, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y. e-mail: str2010@med.cornell.edu