

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Retinoid X receptor- γ (RXRG; RXR γ)	<p>Patient sample and rodent studies suggest that RXR agonists could be used to increase remyelination to treat MS. In patient samples from active borders of MS lesions or remyelinating rat CNS lesions, RXR-g expression was greater than that in inactive lesions or nonlesioned areas. In a rodent model of toxin-induced demyelination, the RXR agonist 9-<i>cis</i>-retinoic acid led to an increase in differentiated oligodendrocytes, myelin basic protein expression and the number of remyelinated axons at lesion sites compared with saline controls. Next steps include identifying and testing more potent RXR agonists <i>in vivo</i>.</p> <p>SciBX 3(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1436 Published online Dec. 16, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Huang, J.K. <i>et al. Nat. Neurosci.</i>; published online Dec. 5, 2010; doi:10.1038/nn.2702</p> <p>Contact: Robin J.M. Franklin, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: rjfl000@cam.ac.uk</p> <p>Contact: Charles ffrench-Constant, The Queen's Medical Research Institute, Edinburgh, U.K. e-mail: cffc@ed.ac.uk</p>