

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Stroke	Death-associated protein kinase 1 (DAPK1); NMDA receptor NR2B subtype (NR2B; GRIN2B)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting DAPK1 could help prevent neuronal damage from stroke. In two models of cerebral ischemia, <i>Dapk1</i> knockout led to less neuronal damage and smaller infarct size than wild-type <i>Dapk1</i> expression. Wild-type mice treated with an NR2B fusion peptide 60 minutes before or after ischemia had smaller infarct size than untreated controls. Ongoing work includes testing an optimized version of the fusion peptide in models of stroke.</p> <p>SciBX 3(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.197 Published online Feb. 11, 2010</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Tu, W. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Jan. 22, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.12.055 Contact: Youming Lu, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, New Orleans, La. e-mail: ylu1@lsuhsc.edu</p>