This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	G protein–coupled receptor kinase 2 (GRK2; GPRK2); macrophage inflammatory protein-1α (CCL3; MIP1A)	*In vitro* and rodent studies suggest that preventing inflammation-induced loss of GRK2 could help treat chronic pain. In *Grk2*$^{+/-}$ mice, chemical-induced thermal hyperalgesia and mechanical allodynia were greater than those in wild-type animals. In a rat model of chronic pain, *Grk2* expression in microglia and spinal cord macrophages was lower than that in controls. Next steps include designing compounds to prevent inflammation-induced degradation of GRK2. ***SciBX*** **3(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.223** **Published online Feb. 18, 2010**	Findings unpatented; unlicensed	Eijkelkamp, N. *et al. J. Neurosci.*; published online Feb. 10, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5752-09.2010 **Contact:** Annemieke Kavelaars, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands e-mail: a.kavelaars@umcutrecht.nl