This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Stroke	MicroRNA-15a (miR-15a); peroxisome proliferation- activated receptor- δ (PPAR δ ; PPAR δ)	<p>A study in mice and in cell culture suggests that increasing PPARδ signaling could help protect against stroke-associated brain damage. In nutrient-deprived mouse cerebral vascular endothelial cells, PPARδ overexpression reduced miR-15a-dependent cell death compared with normal PPARδ expression. In a mouse model of stroke, a PPARδ agonist significantly reduced infarct size and ischemia-induced upregulation of miR-15a compared with vehicle control ($p < 0.05$ for both). Next steps could include evaluating PPARδ agonists or a miR-15a antagomir in animal stroke models. At least five companies have PPARδ agonists in Phase II testing or earlier for indications including dyslipidemia, diabetes and atherosclerosis.</p> <p>SciBX 3(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.594 Published online May 13, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Yin, K.-J. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online May 5, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0780-10.2010</p> <p>Contact: Y. Eugene Chen, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: echenum@umich.edu</p>