This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Retinitis	Halorhodopsin	*In vitro*, *ex vivo* and mouse studies suggest that *Natronomonas pharaonis* halorhodopsin gene therapy could help treat retinitis pigmentosa, a disease characterized by rod photoreceptor death and cone photoreceptor light insensitivity. In a mouse model of retinal degeneration, adeno-associated virus (AAV)-mediated gene delivery of halorhodopsin resensitized cones to light and improved behavioral responses to light compared with AAV-mediated delivery of a control protein. In *ex vivo* human retinas, halorhodopsin restored sensitivity to light-insensitive photoreceptors compared with no treatment. Next steps could include testing the gene therapy in additional animal models to determine its effect on photoreceptor survival. ***SciBX*** **3(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.836** **Published online July 15, 2010**	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Busskamp, V. *et al. Science*; published online June 24, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1190897 **Contact**: Botand Roska, Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research, Basel, Switzerland e-mail: botond.roska@fmi.ch