This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP; NPPB)	Rat studies suggest that BNP could help treat inflammatory pain. In two rat models of chemically induced inflammatory pain, intrathecal BNP decreased flinching behavior and thermal hyperalgesia compared with no treatment or pretreatment with BNP signaling inhibitors. Ongoing work includes testing BNP and an oral BNP analog in animal models of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). <i>SciBX</i> 3(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.994 Published online Aug. 19, 2010	Patent held by the Chinese Academy of Sciences; available for licensing	Zhang, F.-X. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Aug. 11, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0657-10.2010 Contact: Xu Zhang, Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China e-mail: xu.zhang@ion.ac.cn