This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4γ 1 (EIF4G1)	<i>In vitro</i> and genetic studies identified mutations in the <i>EIF4G1</i> gene that could help predict susceptibility to familial PD. In a genomewide linkage analysis of a single French family with PD cases, as well as confirmatory sequencing studies in seven more families carrying PD, the disease was linked to several mutations in the <i>EIF4G1</i> gene, which encodes a subunit of the protein translation complex. In cells transfected with the <i>EIF4G1</i> mutant variants, formation of the translation complex was disrupted and susceptibility to PD-associated reactive oxygen species damage was increased compared with those in cells transfected with wild-type <i>EIF4G1</i> . Next steps include generating knock-in mice that carry one of the <i>EIF4G1</i> mutations and studying how that mutation alters gene and protein expression.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Chartier-Harlin, M.-C <i>et al.</i> <i>Am. J. Human Genet.</i> ; published online Sept. 8, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2011.08.009 Contact: Matthew Farrer, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada e-mail: mfarrer@can.ubc.ca
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