This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Stroke	Adrenergic receptors; CD1D	<p>A study in mice suggests antagonizing adrenergic receptors could reduce bacterial infection after stroke. In a mouse model of stroke, mice treated with noradrenalin had lower invariant NK T (iNKT) cell activity and higher susceptibility to bacterial infection than vehicle-treated controls. Mice treated with an agent that blocked the production of noradrenalin or with the CD1D agonist α-GalCer had higher iNKT cell activity and lower rates of bacterial infection after stroke than vehicle-treated controls. Next steps include clinical testing of iNKT cell-activating agents to decrease bacterial infection.</p> <p>RGI-2001, a synthetic α-GalCer derivative from Regimmune Corp., is in Phase I trials for graft-versus-host disease (GvHD).</p> <p>SciBX 4(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1152 Published online Oct. 20, 2011</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Wong, C.H.Y. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Sept. 15, 2011; doi:10.1126/science.1210301</p> <p>Contact: Paul Kubes, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada e-mail: pkubes@ucalgary.ca</p>