This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Smoothed (SMO)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest increasing hedgehog signaling could help treat MS. In a mouse model of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), antagonizing the hedgehog pathway receptor Smo increased disease severity compared with that seen using vehicle. In human blood brain barrier endothelial cells, activation of hedgehog signaling decreased expression of inflammatory mediators and leukocyte signaling compared with those seen using vehicle control. Next steps could include testing the strategy in additional animal models.	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Alvarez, J.I. <i>et al. Science</i> ; published online Dec. 1, 2011; doi:10.1126/science.1206936 Contact: Alexandre Prat, University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada e-mail: a.prat@umontreal.ca
SciBX 4(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1344				
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