This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	α -Synuclein (SNCA); protein phosphatase 2 (PPP2CA; PP2A)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting PP2A demethylation could help treat PD. An <i>in vitro</i> screen identified eicosanoyl-5-hydroxytryptamide as an inhibitor of PP2A demethylation. In a transgenic mouse model of PD, the compound lowered SNCA phosphorylation and aggregation, which have been linked to neurotoxicity, compared with vehicle. The compound also decreased neurodegeneration and increased performance in sensorimotor tests compared with vehicle. Ongoing work by Signum Biosciences Inc. includes testing the compound in multiple models of PD and Alzheimer's disease (AD) and identifying other inhibitors of PP2A demethylation.	Patented by Signum Biosciences; available for licensing	Lee, K.-W. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online May 11, 2011; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.6513-10.2011 Contact: M. Maral Mouradian, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Piscataway, N.J. e-mail: Mouradian@umdnj.edu
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