This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Neuronal pentraxin 1 (NPTX1; NP1)	<p>Rodent studies suggest inhibiting NP1 could help treat neuropathic pain. In a rat model of neuropathic pain, small hairpin RNA against <i>Np1</i> in the rostral ventromedial medulla decreased mechanical allodynia and hyperalgesia compared with control shRNA. In a mouse model of neuropathic pain, <i>Np1</i> knockout decreased mechanical allodynia compared with normal <i>Np1</i> expression. Next steps include replicating the results in additional models of neuropathic pain, identifying the mechanisms underlying the observed effects and developing a method to modulate NP1 function <i>in vivo</i>.</p> <p>SciBX 5(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.959 Published online Sept. 13, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing details available from the NIH Office of Technology Transfer	<p>Zapata, A. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Sept. 5, 2012; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2730-12.2012 Contact: Agustin Zapata, National Institute on Drug Abuse Intramural Research Program, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: azapata@mail.nih.gov</p>