This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Epilepsy	Semaphorin 4D (SEMA4D)	Cell and tissue culture studies suggest SEMA4D-Fc could be used to treat epilepsy. Sema4d-Fc is produced by conjugating the extracellular domain of mouse Sema4d to the Fc region of mouse IgG. In wild-type, cultured neurons and hippocampal brain slices, Sema4d-Fc increased formation of inhibitory GABAergic synapses compared with a control Fc. In an <i>in vitro</i> model for epilepsy, Sema4d-Fc decreased hyperexcitability compared with a control Fc. Next steps could include testing Sema4d-Fc in mouse models for epilepsy.	Patented; available for licensing from the Brandeis University Office of Technology Licensing	Kuzirian, M.S. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online May 22, 2013; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0989-13.2013 Contact: Suzanne Paradis, Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass. e-mail: paradis@brandeis.edu
SciBX 6(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.606 Published online June 20, 2013				