

THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Ataxia	Nemo-like kinase (NLK)	Fly and mouse studies suggest inhibiting NLK could help treat spinocerebellar ataxia type 1 (SCA1). In a fly model for SCA1, an <i>nlk</i> deficiency decreased markers of disease compared with no deficiency. In the fly model, expression of human <i>NLK</i> increased markers of disease compared with expression of a kinase-dead mutant. In a mouse model for SCA1, lower <i>Nlk</i> expression decreased disease- associated behaviors compared with wild-type <i>Nlk</i> expression. Next steps include understanding additional mechanisms downstream of NLK in diseased and normal brain function.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Ju, H. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online May 29, 2013; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3465-12.2013 Contact: Janghoo Lim, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: janghoo.lim@yale.edu

SciBX 6(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.631 Published online June 27, 2013