This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Activin A	<p>Mouse and <i>in vitro</i> studies suggest activin A could help promote remyelination in MS. In mice subjected to localized, chemical-induced demyelination, initiation of remyelination was associated with microglia and macrophages switching from a proinflammatory M1 state to an anti-inflammatory M2 state. In cultured oligodendrocyte precursors (OPCs), M2-specific activin A was sufficient to enhance differentiation, which is important for remyelination. In cultured OPCs and in <i>ex vivo</i> cerebellar slice cultures, activin A-blocking antibodies decreased OPC differentiation compared with control IgG. Next steps include identifying specific receptor subtypes and signaling pathways mediating the effects of activin A in mouse OPCs.</p> <p>SciBX 6(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.850 Published online Aug. 22, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status not applicable	<p>Miron, V.E. <i>et al. Nat. Neurosci.</i>; published online July 21, 2013; doi:10.1038/nn.3469</p> <p>Contact: Veronique E. Miron, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, U.K. e-mail: vmiron@staffmail.ed.ac.uk</p>