This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Epilepsy	Estrogen receptor	<p>Mouse studies suggest estradiol or related drugs could be used to treat infantile spasms syndrome (ISS). Estradiol mediates long-term gene expression changes through the estrogen receptor. In a mouse model of ISS with deficient interneuron development, estradiol given in an early postnatal window decreased motor spasms and seizures compared with vehicle or treatment at a later time. In the mice treated in the early window, neuropeptide Y (Npy)⁺ cortical interneuron and choline acetyltransferase-positive striatal interneuron numbers were restored. Next steps include studies to refine dosing levels, duration and timing of estradiol treatment.</p> <p>More than 20 companies market ligands for the estrogen receptor for various indications.</p> <p>SciBX 7(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.179 Published online Feb. 13, 2014</p>	Unpatented; mouse model available for licensing from Baylor College of Medicine	<p>Olivetti, P.R. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 22, 2014; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3007231</p> <p>Contact: Jeffrey L. Noebels, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas e-mail: jnoebels@bcm.edu</p>