This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD); diabetic neuropathy	Neurotrophic tyrosine kinase receptor 1 (NTRK1; TrkA); NTRK2 (TrkB)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that small molecule agonists of TrkA and TrkB could be useful for treating AD and diabetic neuropathy.</p> <p>In cultured hippocampal neurons, the generic tricyclic antidepressant amitriptyline promoted TrkA activation and blocked apoptosis compared with mock treatment. In mice, amitriptyline injection led to TrkA and TrkB activation and prevented chemically induced neuronal cell death compared with mock treatment. Next steps include SAR studies to separate the TrkA- and TrkB-activating portion of amitriptyline from regions that bind to other targets.</p> <p>EpiCept Corp.'s EpiCept NP-1, a topical formulation of amitriptyline and ketamine, is in Phase IIb testing for post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN).</p> <p>SciBX 2(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1054 Published online July 9, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Jang, S.-W. <i>et al. Chem. & Biol.</i>; published online June 26, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2009.05.010</p> <p>Contact: Keqiang Ye, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: kye@emory.edu</p>