This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Addiction	Ghrelin; growth hormone secretagogue receptor (GHSR)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that blocking ghrelin-GHSR signaling could help treat alcohol dependence. Injection of ghrelin into brain tegmental areas led to increased alcohol consumption in wild-type mice but not in <i>Ghsr</i>-knockout mice or mice treated with a <i>Ghsr</i> antagonist. In three different mouse models of alcohol reward, <i>Ghsr</i> knockout or inhibition reduced the rewarding properties of alcohol. Ongoing studies are investigating the role of ghrelin-GHSR signaling in rewarding properties of nicotine and cocaine.</p> <p>SciBX 2(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1085 Published online July 16, 2009</p>	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Jerlhag, E. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 29, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0812809106</p> <p>Contact: Elisabet Jerlhag, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden e-mail: elisabet.jerlhag@pharm.gu.se</p>