This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	NMDAR (GRIN); metabotropic glutamate receptor (GRM1; mGluR)	<p>Studies in mouse brain tissue suggest that antagonizing signaling through either NMDARs or mGluRs could help treat AD. In mouse hippocampal slices, an NMDAR antagonist, an mGluR antagonist or a biochemical agent that lowered extracellular glutamate levels all reduced the severity of β-amyloid ($A\beta$)-induced long-term synaptic depression compared with mock treatment. Next steps could include testing mGluR antagonists in animal models of AD.</p> <p>Namenda memantine, an NMDAR antagonist, was discovered by Neurobiological Technologies Inc. and is marketed by Forest Laboratories Inc., Merz GmbH & Co. KGaA and H. Lundbeck A/S to treat Alzheimer's disease (AD).</p> <p>ADX48621, a negative allosteric modulator of mGluR5 from Addex Pharmaceuticals Ltd., is in Phase IIa testing to treat levodopa-induced dyskinesia in Parkinson's disease (PD) patients.</p> <p>LY2140023, an oral prodrug of LY404039 from Eli Lilly and Co. and an mGluR2 and mGluR3 agonist, is in Phase II testing to treat schizophrenia.</p> <p>SciBX 2(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1086 Published online July 16, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Li, S. <i>et al. Neuron</i>; published online June 25, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2009.05.012</p> <p>Contact: Dennis Selkoe, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: dselkoe@rics.bwh.harvard.edu</p>