This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Cognitive dysfunction	Calcium channel L-type	<i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest that agonizing L-type voltage-dependent calcium channels could help enhance memory and treat cognitive dysfunction. In rats, the L-type voltage-dependent calcium channel antagonists verapamil, diltiazem and nifedipine impaired long-term but not short-term recognition memory. In cortical slices, antagonizing the calcium channels did not affect synaptic baseline excitability or long-term potentiation but did impair synaptic long-term depression and depotentiation. Next steps include identifying agonists of the calcium channels that could help treat human disease.	Findings unpatented; licensing status unknown	Seoane, A. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online July 29, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5199-08.2009 Contact: Malcolm W. Brown, University of Bristol, Bristol, U.K. e-mail: m.w.brown@bristol.ac.uk
SciBX 2(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1188 Published online Aug. 6, 2009				