This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Epilepsy	Nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 7$ (CHRNA7)	<p>A genotyping study suggests that a 15q13.3 deletion mutation could help predict increased risk for idiopathic generalized epilepsy (IGE). The 15q13.3 region contains at least seven genes, including <i>CHRNA7</i>, which may be associated with epilepsy. In 1,223 IGE patients, the 15q13.3 deletion mutation occurred in 12 patients compared with no cases among 3,699 healthy controls ($p=5.32 \times 10^{-8}$). Next steps could include studying the neurological effects of the 15q13.3 deletion.</p> <p>EVP-6124, a CHRNA7 agonist from EnVivo Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase I testing to treat cognitive dysfunction and schizophrenia. At least two other companies have CHRNA7 modulators in preclinical or earlier development for cognitive dysfunction.</p> <p>SciBX 2(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.154 Published online Jan. 29, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Helbig, I. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Jan. 11, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.292</p> <p>Contact: Thomas Sander, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany e-mail: sandert@uni-koeln.de</p>