This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	VEGF (VEGFA)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that VEGF expression could help treat depression and anxiety. In transgenic mice overexpressing VEGF in the forebrain, cell proliferation and angiogenesis were higher during brain development than that seen in wild-type mice, and hippocampal neurogenesis was stimulated in young transgenic adult mice. In behavioral studies, both young and aged transgenic mice had less fear and aggression, which are proxies for depression and anxiety, than wild-type mice. Further studies include screening compounds to identify VEGF signal transduction system modifiers that regulate mood and to identify more inducers of VEGF in the brain.</p> <p>SciBX 2(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.155 Published online Jan. 29, 2009</p>	Patent application filed for use of VEGF or related materials as anti-stressors in Japan by UHA Mikakuto Co. Ltd.; licensing status unavailable	<p>Udo, H. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Dec. 31, 2008; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3673-08.2008</p> <p>Contact: Hiroshi Udo, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan e-mail: hudouscb@mbox.nc.kyushu-u.ac.jp</p>