This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Monoacylglycerol lipase (MAGL; MGL)	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified terpenoid compounds that inhibited MAGL and could be useful for treating pain. In enzyme inhibition assays, two terpenoids potently and reversibly inhibited MAGL activity. Molecular modeling and mutational analyses identified a common binding site for the two terpenoids. Next steps could include identifying additional therapeutics that reversibly interact with the binding site and inhibit the enzyme as well as studying those compounds in preclinical models of pain.	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	King, A.R. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online Oct. 30, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2009.09.012 Contact: Daniele Piomelli, University of California, Irvine, Calif. e-mail: piomelli@uci.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 2(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1640 Published online Nov. 12, 2009				