This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Convulsions; epilepsy; seizures	Histone deacetylase (HDAC)	<p>Studies in rodents have identified a cyclic analog of valproic acid that may be useful as an anticonvulsant with decreased side effects. In a rat anticonvulsant model, the cyclic valproic acid analog had an ED₅₀ of 6 mg/kg and was 120-fold more potent than valproic acid. Similar effects were seen in a mouse psychomotor seizure model and a rat epilepsy model. Next steps could include evaluating the safety and efficacy of the analog in additional animal models.</p> <p>DP-VPA, a phospholipid derivative of valproic acid formulated with Regulated Activation of Prodrugs (D-RAP) technology from D-Pharm Ltd., is in Phase II testing to treat epilepsy.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.591 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Pessah, N. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 18, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900017f</p> <p>Contact: Boris Yagen, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel e-mail: yagen@cc.huji.ac.il</p>