This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	μ -Opioid receptor (OPRM1)	<p>A study in rats identified a mannoside derivative of morphine-6-glucuronide (M6G) as an analgesic. In a pain assay in rats, the derivative M6Man had 100 times the potency of morphine, with an IC_{50} value of 0.02 mg/kg. The derivative also had a five-hour duration of effect compared with that of two-and-a-half hours for morphine. Next steps include conducting safety and toxicity studies of M6Man in animal models.</p> <p>M6G, a metabolite of morphine from Paion AG, is in Phase III testing to treat pain. At least 15 compounds targeting OPRM1 are marketed to treat pain.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.671 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Arsequell, G. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 7, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm8011245</p> <p>Contact: Gregorio Valencia, Advanced Chemistry Institute of Cataluna, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: gregorio.valencia@iqac.csic.es</p>