This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Depression	Amiloride-sensitive cation channel 2, neuronal (ACCN2; ASIC1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that inhibiting ASIC1a could help treat depression. In mice, <i>Asic1a</i> knockout caused antidepressant activity during behavioral tests. Restoring <i>Asic1a</i> decreased the antidepressant effects. Stressed <i>Asic1a</i>^{-/-} mice showed no decrease in levels of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) in the hippocampus, whereas stressed wild-type mice showed lower levels of the depression biomarker. An <i>Asic1a</i> inhibitor also caused antidepressant-like effects in a behavioral test in mice compared with those seen in untreated mice. Next steps could include additional studies to determine whether there is an association between ASIC1a and the mechanisms underlying depression.</p> <p>SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.800 Published online May 14, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Coryell, M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online April 29, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0360-09.2009</p> <p>Contact: John A. Wemmie, University of Iowa College of Medicine, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: john-emmie@uiowa.edu</p>