This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Depression; schizophrenia; bipolar disorder	Disrupted in schizophrenia 1 (DISC1); glycogen synthase kinase 3 β (GSK3B)	Studies in mice suggest that upregulating DISC1 or inhibiting GSK3B could be useful for treating various neurological disorders. DISC1 directly binds to and inhibits GSK3B. In mice, lack of <i>Disc1</i> in the dentate gyrus led to lower neural progenitor proliferation and elicited hyperactive and depressive behaviors compared with what was seen in controls. GSK3B inhibition normalized neural progenitor proliferation and behavioral defects caused by loss of <i>Disc1</i> in the mice. Next steps include further characterizing the DISC1-GSK3B interaction and developing allosteric inhibitors of GSK3B that can permeate the blood brain barrier.	Patent application filed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; unlicensed	Mao, Y. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online March 20, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2008.12.044 Contact: Li-Huei Tsai, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: lhtsai@mit.edu
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