This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Anxiety	Orexin 1 receptor (OX1R)	A study in rats and in humans suggests that antagonizing OX1R could help treat anxiety. In rats, small interfering RNA knockdown of orexin or a small molecule OX1R inhibitor reduced anxiety compared with control siRNA or vehicle, respectively. Human cerebrospinal fluid samples isolated from patients with panic anxiety had higher concentrations of orexin than samples from healthy individuals. Next steps include testing OX1R antagonists in clinical trials to treat anxiety. Dual antagonists of OX1R and OX2R include almorexant from Actelion Ltd., which is in Phase III testing to treat insomnia, and GSK649868 from GlaxoSmithKline plc and Human Genome Sciences Inc., which is in Phase II testing to treat insomnia. SciBX 3(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.124 Published online Jan. 28, 2010	Patent pending; available for licensing	Johnson, P.L. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Dec. 27, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.2075 Contact: Anantha Shekhar, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Ind. e-mail: ashekhar@iupui.edu