This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Ceramide; sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P)	<p>Studies in rats suggest that antagonizing ceramide and S1P signaling in the spine could help decrease hyperalgesia associated with opioid addiction and tolerance. Rats with morphine-induced hyperalgesia and morphine tolerance had higher ceramide and S1p levels in spinal glial cells than saline-treated controls. Also in rats, inhibitors of ceramide and S1p biosynthesis decreased morphine-induced hyperalgesia and morphine tolerance compared with vehicle. Next steps could include developing ceramide or S1P antagonists that could be used in patients.</p> <p>SciBX 3(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1417 Published online Dec. 9, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Muscoli, C. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Nov. 17, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2391-10.2010</p> <p>Contact: Daniela Salvemini, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: salvemd@slu.edu</p>