This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Addiction	Corticotropin-releasing factor receptor 1 (CRHR1; CRFR1); orexin 1 receptor (HCRTR1; OX1R)	<p>A study in mice suggests that a combination of CRFR1 and OX1R antagonists could help prevent relapse of nicotine addiction. In mice previously addicted to nicotine, an OX1R antagonist prevented addiction relapse triggered by an OX1R agonist. Also in mice, a CRFR1 antagonist blocked stress-induced addiction relapse. Next steps include testing a combination of CRFR1 and OX1R antagonists in clinical trials of smoking cessation.</p> <p>OX1R antagonists almorexant from Actelion Ltd. and GSK649868 from GlaxoSmithKline plc and Human Genome Sciences Inc. are in Phase III and Phase II trials, respectively, to treat insomnia.</p> <p>Ono Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., sanofi-aventis Group and Taisho Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. separately have CRFR1 antagonists in Phase I testing to treat anxiety and depression.</p> <p>SciBX 3(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.314 Published online March 11, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Plaza-Zabala, A. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Feb. 10, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5724-09.2010</p> <p>Contact: Fernando Berrendero, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: fernando.berrendero@upf.edu</p>