This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Depression	Potassium channel, subfamily K, member 2 (KCNK2; TREK-1)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggested that inhibiting TREK-1 with the spadin peptide could help treat depression. Spadin is an endogenous peptide derived from sortilin 1 (SORT1; NTR3). In cultured neurons, spadin bound to and inhibited TREK-1 compared with saline control. In mice, exogenous spadin increased serotonergic neuron firing compared with that in mice given saline control. In five mouse behavioral tests, spadin had antidepressant-like effects compared with saline control. Next steps include developing a slow-release formulation of spadin to treat depression.	Findings patented; available for licensing	Mazella, J. <i>et al. PLoS Biol.</i> ; published online April 13, 2010; doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000355 Contact: Catherine Heurteaux, University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, Valbonne, France e-mail: heurteau@ipmc.cnrs.fr
<i>SciBX</i> 3(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.526 Published online April 29, 2010				