This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD); cognitive dysfunction; schizophrenia	Nicotinic acetylcholine receptor α_7 (CHRNA7)	<p>A study in rats has identified a urea-containing CHRNA7 agonist that could help treat cognitive disorders like AD and schizophrenia. In rat models of memory deficits, oral delivery of the CHRNA7 agonist improved cognitive function and perceptual processing tests compared with delivery of vehicle. Next steps could include evaluating the CHRNA7 agonist in additional preclinical models of neurological diseases. Siena Biotech S.p.A. and partner Pfizer Inc. have a CHRNA7 agonist in an undisclosed stage of development for AD. At least five other companies have CHRNA7 agonists in Phase II or earlier testing for AD, cognitive dysfunction and schizophrenia.</p> <p>SciBX 3(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.681 Published online June 3, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Ghiron, C. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online May 14, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm901692q Contact: Chiara Ghiron, Siena Biotech S.p.A, Siena, Italy e-mail: cghiron@sienabiotech.it</p>