This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Epilepsy	Nicotinic acetylcholine receptor α_7 (CHRNA7)	<p>A human genetics study suggests that CHRNA7 agonists could be useful for treating epilepsy. In a panel of patients with various forms of idiopathic epilepsy, about 10% had one or more copy number variants (CNVs) in genomic regions compared with healthy controls, which had no CNVs. About 10% of those individuals had deletions of a chromosomal region encompassing CHRNA7. Next steps include sequencing CHRNA7 in more epilepsy patients and testing the effect of CHRNA7 agonists in animal models of epilepsy.</p> <p>CHRNA7 agonists in the clinic include Roche's MEM 3454 (RG3487) and EnVivo Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s EVP-6124, both in Phase IIb testing for Alzheimer's disease (AD), as well as Targacept Inc.'s and AstraZeneca plc's TC-5619, in Phase II testing for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).</p> <p>SciBX 3(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.777 Published online June 24, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Mefford, H.C. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i>; published online May 20, 2010; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000962</p> <p>Contact: Heather C. Mefford, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: hmefford@u.washington.edu</p>