This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology	Phosphodiesterase-4 (PDE-4)	<i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies identified allosteric PDE-4 inhibitors that could help treat cognitive disorders. In mouse models of long-term memory, similar cognitive improvements were achieved with traditional PDE-4 inhibitors and the allosteric inhibitors. However, in mice, birds, dogs and monkeys, the allosteric inhibitors caused less vomiting than traditional inhibitors. Next steps include Phase I testing of the allosteric inhibitors, for which deCode genetics Inc. has filed an IND. At least six companies have PDE-4 inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat neurological conditions. SciBX 3(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.96 Published online Jan. 21, 2010	Patents filed; unavailable for licensing	Burgin, A. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Dec. 27, 2009; doi:10.1038/nbt.1598 Contact: Mark E. Gurney, deCode chemistry, Woodridge, Ill. e-mail: mgurney@decode.com Contact: Alex B. Burgin, deCode biostructures, Bainbridge Island, Wash. e-mail: aburgin@embios.com