This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Norepinephrine transporter	<p>Rat and <i>in vitro</i> studies identified selective norepinephrine transporter inhibitors that could help treat pain. <i>In vitro</i>, the lead compound inhibited norepinephrine uptake with an IC₅₀ value of 15 nM. In rats, the lead compound reduced acute, inflammatory and neuropathic pain compared with vehicle. Next steps could include evaluating the selective norepinephrine transporters in additional pain models.</p> <p>Ellefore desvenlafaxine, a serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor from Pfizer Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat pain.</p> <p>Cymbalta duloxetine, a selective serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SSNRI) from Eli Lilly and Co. and Shionogi & Co. Ltd., is marketed to treat pain.</p> <p>At least three other companies have compounds targeting norepinephrine in Phase II testing or earlier to treat pain.</p> <p>SciBX 4(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1094 Published online Oct. 6, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>O'Neill, D.J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Sept. 14, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm200733r</p> <p>Contact: David J. O'Neill, Pfizer Inc., Collegeville, Pa. e-mail: david.oneill@pfizer.com</p>