This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	μ-Opioid receptor (OPRM1; MOR)	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified a naltrexone-derived opioid that could help treat pain without opiate-associated side effects. In mice, the compound induced analgesia and had reduced respiratory, gastrointestinal and withdrawal effects compared with morphine. Next steps include further optimization of the compound, which the researchers dubbed IBNtxA. SciBX 4(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1335 Published online Dec. 8, 2011	Patent applications filed; licensing status undisclosed	Majumdar, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Nov. 21, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1115231108 Contact: Gavril W. Pasternak, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: pasterng@mskcc.org