This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	μ-Opioid receptor (OPRM1; MOR); κ-opioid receptor (OPRK1; KOR)	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest that <i>N</i> -naphthoyl-β-naltrexamine (NNTA) agonizes OPRM1 and OPRK1 oligomers to help treat pain with lower risk of developing dependency than current treatments. In mice, injection of NNTA decreased physical pain at a lower concentration than the opioid agonist morphine. In a mouse model of drug dependency, NNTA did not increase dependency-associated behaviors compared with saline and morphine. Next steps include preclinical studies of NNTA in nonhuman primates. SciBX 4(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.346 Published online March 24, 2011	Patent application filed; available for licensing through the University of Minnesota Office of Technology Commercialization	Yekkirala, A.S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 7, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1016277108 Contact: Philip S. Portoghese, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. e-mail: porto001@umn.edu