This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	μ-Opioid receptor (OPRM1; MOR); opioid receptor-δ1 (OPRD1; DOR)	<p>Studies in mice identified tetrapeptide bifunctional agonists of OPRM1 and OPRD1 that could help treat neuropathic pain. <i>In vitro</i>, the lead compound inhibited both opioid receptors with subnanomolar EC₅₀ values. In mouse models of spinal cord injury, induced thermal hypersensitivity and tactile allodynia, the inhibitor decreased paw withdrawal responses compared with vehicle control. Next steps include further optimization of the compound's oral bioavailability.</p> <p>SciBX 4(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.80 Published online Jan. 20, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Lee, Y.S. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Dec. 3, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm100982d</p> <p>Contact: Victor J. Hruby, The University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. e-mail: hruby@u.arizona.edu</p>