This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Anxiety; Parkinson's disease (PD)	Metabotropic glutamate receptor subtype 4 (mGluR4; GRM4)	<i>In vitro</i> and rat studies identified tricyclic thiazolopyrazoles as positive allosteric modulators of mGluR4 that could help treat CNS diseases including PD and anxiety. <i>In vitro</i> , the lead modulator selectively activated mGluR4 with an EC ₅₀ of 9 nM. In rats, oral doses of the compound had good plasma and brain exposure. Next steps could include testing the compound in disease models. Addex Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Merck & Co. Inc. have an mGluR4 positive allosteric modulator in preclinical testing to treat anxiety and PD.	H. Lundbeck A/S declined to disclose patent and licensing status	Hong, S.-P. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online June 20, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm200290z Contact: Darío Doller, Lundbeck Research USA, Paramus, N.J. e-mail: dado@lundbeck.com
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