This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Excessive sleepiness	GABA _A receptor	<i>In vitro</i> and clinical studies suggest GABA _A receptor inhibitors could help treat hypersomnias (excessive sleepiness). Increased GABA _A receptor signaling has been associated with increased drowsiness. In cell culture, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) from patients with hypersomnias plus γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA) increased GABA _A receptor activity compared with CSF from non-hypersomnolent individuals plus GABA. In the cells, treatment with the generic GABA _A receptor antagonist flumazenil prevented the increased activity caused by the CSF from hypersomnolent individuals. In seven hypersomnolent patients, flumazenil increased psychomotor vigilance and alertness compared with saline control. Next steps include larger clinical studies.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Rye, D.B. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online Nov. 21, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3004685 Contact: David B. Rye, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: drye@emory.edu
SciBX 5(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1265				
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