This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Platelet derived growth factor receptor B (PDGFRB; PDGFR1; CD140B)	<p>Rat studies suggest antagonizing PDGFRB could help prevent morphine tolerance. In rats, the multikinase inhibitor Gleevec imatinib, which targets PDGFRB and other kinases, as well as a PDGFRB-Fc fusion protein prevented morphine-induced increases in PDGFRB activation and reduced morphine tolerance compared with morphine alone. In the rats, Gleevec also reversed tolerance. Next steps include clinical testing.</p> <p>Novartis AG markets Gleevec to treat chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) and gastrointestinal stromal tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 5(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.261 Published online March 8, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Wang, Y. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 19, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2633 Contact: Howard B. Gutstein, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: hgutstein@mdanderson.org</p>