This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Monoacylglycerol lipase (MAGL)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies identified a class of O-hexafluoroisopropyl (HFIP) carbamates that selectively inhibited MAGL and could help treat pain. In a serine hydrolase assay, the HFIP carbamates were more selective than existing O-aryl carbamates for MAGL. In mice, the new inhibitors potently blocked MAGL with no detectable cross-reactivity with fatty acid amide hydrolase (FAAH), whereas previously identified inhibitors had low levels of cross-reactivity. Next steps include preclinical safety profiling of the class of compounds.</p> <p>Abide Therapeutics Inc. has MAGL inhibitors in preclinical development to treat neuropathic pain.</p> <p>SciBX 5(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.528 Published online May 17, 2012</p>	Patent application filed covering MAGL inhibitors; licensed by Abide	<p>Chang, J.W. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online April 26, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2012.03.009</p> <p>Contact: Benjamin F. Cravatt, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: cravatt@scripps.edu</p> <p>Contact: Micah J. Niphakis, same affiliation as above e-mail: mniphak@scripps.edu</p>