This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Excessive sleepiness	Vasopressin 1a (V1a) receptor; V1b receptor	<p>Mouse studies suggest antagonizing the V1a or V1b receptors could be useful for treating sleep disturbance caused by jet lag. In mice subjected to light-dark cycle changes, which alter circadian rhythms, <i>V1a receptor</i> and <i>V1b receptor</i> double knockout mice adapted more quickly to light-dark cycles than wild-type controls. In normal mice, infusion of V1a and V1b receptor antagonists accelerated adaption to a new light-dark cycle compared with vehicle infusion. Next steps could include further testing of V1a or V1b receptor antagonists in models of jet lag.</p> <p>Astellas Pharma Inc. markets Vaprisol conivaptan, a dual V1 receptor and V2 receptor antagonist, to treat hyponatremia.</p> <p>Vantia Therapeutics Ltd. has the V1a receptor antagonist VA111913 in Phase II testing to treat dysmenorrhea.</p> <p>Azevan Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s V1a receptor antagonist, SRX251, is in Phase I to treat dysmenorrhea.</p> <p>Roche's V1a receptor antagonist, RG7314, is in Phase I testing to treat autism spectrum disorder (ASD).</p> <p>SciBX 6(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1268 Published online Nov. 14, 2013</p>	Patent pending; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Yamaguchi, Y. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Oct. 4, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1238599</p> <p>Contact: Hitoshi Okamura, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan e-mail: okamurah@pharm.kyoto-u.ac.jp</p>