This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Nav1.7 (SCN9A)	<p>Studies in cell culture and mice identified a centipede venom-derived peptide antagonist of Nav1.7 that could help treat pain. In cultured rat neurons, a 46-residue peptide isolated from centipede venom prevented activation of Nav1.7. In human cell culture, the peptide had high selectivity for Nav1.7 over related sodium channels. In multiple mouse models of pain, the peptide decreased pain compared with saline. Next steps include further preclinical development of centipede-derived Nav1.7 inhibitors for pain indications.</p> <p>Nav1.7 antagonists in clinical development include Convergence Pharmaceuticals Ltd's CNV1014802, which is in Phase II testing to treat pain associated with trigeminal neuralgia and lumbosacral radiculopathy (LSR); Xenon Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd's XEN042, which is in Phase II testing for postherpetic neuralgia (PHN); Pfizer Inc's PF-05089771, which is in Phase I testing for chronic pain; and Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma Co. Ltd's DSP-2230, which is in Phase I testing for neuropathic pain.</p> <p>SciBX 6(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1271 Published online Nov. 14, 2013</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Yang, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 30, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1306285110 Contact: Glenn F. King, The University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland, Australia e-mail: glenn.king@imb.uq.edu.au</p>