This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Insomnia	Orexin 1 receptor (HCRTR1; OX1R); HCRTR2 (OX2R)	<p>Rat and nonhuman primate studies suggest antagonizing orexin receptors could help treat insomnia with fewer cognitive side effects than marketed drugs that modulate GABA receptors. In rats and nonhuman primates, an orexin receptor antagonist induced sleep at concentrations that did not significantly decrease cognition in object recognition tests, whereas a series of compounds that modulate GABA receptors did decrease cognition. Next steps include clinical studies to evaluate the effect of orexin antagonists on cognition.</p> <p>An NDA for Merck & Co. Inc.'s suvorexant, a dual orexin receptor antagonist, will be discussed by an FDA advisory committee on May 22, 2013.</p> <p>At least seven companies market GABA receptor modulators to treat insomnia.</p> <p>SciBX 6(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.342 Published online April 11, 2013</p>	Patents pending; licensing status unavailable	<p>Uslaner, J.M. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online April 3, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3005213</p> <p>Contact: Jason M. Uslaner, Merck & Co. Inc., West Point, Pa. e-mail: jason_uslaner@merck.com</p>