This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	μ -Opioid receptor (OPRM1; MOR)	<p>SAR studies identified synthetic peptide analogs of endomorphin-1 that could be useful for treating pain. <i>In vitro</i> SAR studies identified a series of unnatural amino acid-bearing endomorphin-1 derivatives that agonized OPRM1 at subpicomolar concentrations. In an <i>in vitro</i> assay, the lead compound in the series had about a 35-fold longer half-life than natural endomorphin-1. In a mouse pain assay, the lead compound showed more potent analgesic effects than morphine. Next steps include further optimizing the compounds and conducting preclinical safety studies.</p> <p>SciBX 6(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.343 Published online April 11, 2013</p>	Patent pending; unavailable for licensing	<p>Liu, X. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 11, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm400195y Contact: Rui Wang, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, China e-mail: wangrui@lzu.edu.cn</p>