This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Fatty acid amide hydrolase (FAAH)	<p>Mouse and <i>in vitro</i> studies identified α-ketooxazole-based covalent inhibitors of FAAH that could be useful for treating pain. <i>In vitro</i>, the lead inhibitor caused irreversible inhibition of FAAH by covalently binding to serine 241 and cysteine 269 in the enzyme's active site. In a mouse model for neuropathic pain, the lead inhibitor lowered allodynia with a longer duration of effect than a reversible FAAH inhibitor. Next steps include evaluating the compounds in additional animal models for pain. Vernalis plc's V158866, a small molecule FAAH inhibitor, is in Phase II trials to treat pain.</p> <p>SciBX 6(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.419 Published online May 2, 2013</p>	Unpatented; compounds available for licensing	<p>Otrubova, K. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online April 12, 2013; doi:10.1021/ja4014997</p> <p>Contact: Dale L. Boger, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: boger@scripps.edu</p>