This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Depression	Sphingomyelin phosphodiesterase 1 acid lysosomal (SMPD1; ASM)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest inhibiting SMPD1 could be useful for treating depression. In human neuronal cell lines and in mice, the antidepressants amitriptyline and fluoxetine decreased SMPD1 activity and ceramide levels compared with vehicle. In a mouse model for stress-induced depression, the SMPD1 inhibitor fendiline decreased depression-like behaviors with potency comparable to that of antidepressant drugs. Next steps include identifying potent, selective inhibitors of SMPD1 and characterizing their effects in mouse models for depression.</p> <p>Eli Lilly and Co. markets Prozac fluoxetine to treat major depressive disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), bulimia nervosa and panic disorder.</p> <p>Amitriptyline is a generic antidepressant. Fendiline is a research reagent.</p> <p>SciBX 6(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.690 Published online July 18, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Gulbins, E. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online June 16, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3214</p> <p>Contact: Erich Gulbins, University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany e-mail: erich.gulbins@uni-due.de</p> <p>Contact: Johannes Kornhuber, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany e-mail: johannes.kornhuber@uk-erlangen.de</p>