This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Acid-sensing ion channel-3 (ASIC3; ACCN3)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest a peptide inhibitor of ASIC3 could help treat inflammatory and acid-induced pain. Electrophysiological testing in transgenic <i>Xenopus laevis</i> oocytes expressing human ASIC3 identified a 29-mer sea anemone peptide as a low micromolar inhibitor of the ASIC3 current. In mouse models for thermal hyperalgesia and acid-induced pain, the peptide decreased hypersensitivity to thermal and acidic stimulus compared with vehicle. Next steps include optimizing the peptide to improve its potency.</p> <p>Theralpha S.A.S. and Flamel Technologies S.A. have THA902, a long-acting formulation ASIC3 inhibitor using Medusa technology, in preclinical testing to treat pain.</p> <p>SciBX 6(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.800 Published online Aug. 8, 2013</p>	<p>Patented by the M.M. Shemyakin and Yu.A. Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences; available for licensing and partnering</p>	<p>Osmakov, D.I. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published June 25, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.485516 Contact: Yaroslav A. Andreev, M.M. Shemyakin and Yu.A. Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia e-mail: ay@land.ru</p>