This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Aldehyde dehydrogenase 2 family mitochondrial (ALDH2)	Rodent studies suggest stimulating ALDH2 could help treat pain. In a mouse model of inflammation-induced pain, a heterozygous <i>Aldh2</i> point mutation associated with decreased enzyme activity caused increased nociception compared with responses in wild-type mice. In mouse and rat models of inflammatory pain, the ALDH2 activator Alda-1 normalized nociceptive responses or increased nociceptive thresholds compared with no treatment. Next steps include improving the half-life of Alda-1 and testing whether Alda-1 also affects other forms of pain. Aldea Pharmaceuticals Inc. has the ALDH2 activator AD-6626 in preclinical development for metabolic indications and anemia.	Patent application filed; available for licensing from Stanford University Contact: Sara Nakashima, Stanford University Office of Technology Licensing, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: sara.nakashima@stanford.edu	Zambelli, V.O. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online Aug. 27, 2014; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3009539 Contact: Daria Mochly-Rosen, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: mochly@stanford.edu
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