This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Itch; pain	Nav1.7 (SCN9A)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest an anti-Nav1.7 antibody could help treat itch and pain. In human embryonic kidney cells expressing Nav channel subtypes, an antibody targeting the voltage sensor paddle of Nav1.7 specifically inhibited sodium channel currents through that channel subtype. In mouse models of inflammatory and neuropathic pain, intrathecal or i.v. delivery of the antibody decreased pain compared with delivery of a control antibody. In mouse models of acute and chronic itch, the antibody decreased itch compared with a control antibody. Next steps include creating a humanized mAb with improved half-life.</p> <p>Convergence Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has CNV1014802, a Nav1.7 inhibitor, in Phase II testing to treat pain.</p> <p>At least four other companies have Nav1.7 inhibitors in Phase I or earlier testing to treat pain.</p> <p>SciBX 7(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.685 Published online June 12, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Lee, J.-H. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online May 22, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2014.03.064 Contact: Seok-Yong Lee, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C. e-mail: sylee@biochem.duke.edu Contact: Ru-Rong Ji, same affiliation as above e-mail: rong.ji@duke.edu</p>