

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Pain; inflammation; sleep disorders	Fatty acid amide hydrolase (FAAH)	An SAR study identified $\alpha$ -ketoazole analogs as FAAH inhibitors that could be useful for treating pain, inflammation and sleep disorders. FAAH is a membrane protein that hydrolyzes amides such as anandamide, an endogenous cannabinoid neurotransmitter. One of the most potent inhibitors had $K_i$ values of 200 pM and 260 pM for rat and recombinant human FAAH, respectively. The researchers did not disclose their next steps. Astion Pharma A/S's ASF-1057, a cream containing a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory inhibitor of tyrosine kinase and FAAH, is in Phase III testing to treat seborrheic dermatitis.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Kimball, F. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Feb. 5, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm701210y <b>Contacts:</b> Dale L. Boger, The Skaggs Institute for Chemical Biology, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: <a href="mailto:boger@scripps.edu">boger@scripps.edu</a>