This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Fatty acid amide hydrolase (FAAH); monoacylglycerol lipase (MAGL)	A study in mice suggests that inhibiting FAAH and MAGL could help treat pain. Mice treated with a dual inhibitor of FAAH and MAGL, two enzymes that metabolize endocannabinoids, had less pain behavior than untreated controls. Next steps include developing less potent but more selective inhibitors of FAAH and MAGL and testing their efficacy as analgesics. Evotec AG and Astion Pharma A/S are separately developing preclinical FAAH inhibitors to treat pain and seborrheic dermatitis, respectively.	Not patented; unavailable for licensing	Nomura, D.K. *et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.*; published online April 27, 2008; doi:10.1038/nchembio.86 **Contact:** John Casida, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. e-mail: ectl@nature.berkely.edu