

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Addiction	N-Methyl-D-aspartic acid receptor (NMDAR)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that selective blockade of NMDARs in dopaminergic neurons could help treat addiction to drugs such as cocaine. Drug-seeking behaviors associated with long-term cocaine use and increased cravings following withdrawal were both absent in mice with NMDAR knockout exclusive to dopaminergic neurons. Next steps could include identifying a compound that antagonizes NDMA specifically in dopamine neurons.</p> <p>GlaxoSmithKline plc's 468816, a glycine antagonist against the NMDAR, is in Phase II testing to treat addiction.</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Zweifel, L. <i>et al. Neuron</i>; published online Aug. 13, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2008.05.028</p> <p>Contact: Larry S. Zweifel, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: larryz@u.washington.edu</p>