

**This week in therapeutics**

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Anxiety; neuropathic pain	Nociceptin opioid receptor	An SAR study characterized a series of 1,2-dihydrospiro(isoquinoline-4(3H),4'-piperidin)-3-ones as nociceptin opioid receptor agonists that could be useful for treating anxiety, neuropathic pain and other neurological conditions. One compound had nanomolar affinity for the nociceptin receptor, with 800-fold higher selectivity for that receptor than for the $\kappa$ - and $\mu$ -opioid receptors.	The compounds are not patented; unavailable for licensing	Mustazza, C. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Jan. 31, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm7009606 <b>Contact:</b> Carlo Mustazza, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Roma, Italy e-mail: <a href="mailto:carlo.mustazza@iss.it">carlo.mustazza@iss.it</a>