This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Anxiety	Cannabinoid CB ₁ receptor	<p>Studies in rats suggest that targeting cannabinoid CB₁ receptors in the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis (BNST) could help treat anxiety. Analysis of electrochemical signals in rat neurons showed that the BNST relays excitation signals to the ventral tegmental area (VTA) dopamine neurons. Agonizing cannabinoid CB₁ receptors within the BNST prevented dopamine firing and therefore might lower anxiety and stress in humans. Further studies are necessary to identify a molecule targeting the BNST or anatomical markers in that area.</p> <p>At least 11 companies are targeting cannabinoid receptors for neurological conditions.</p> <p>At least four companies are targeting cannabinoid CB₁ receptors to treat obesity and obesity-related disorders.</p> <p>SciBX 1(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.952 Published online Oct. 30, 2008</p>	Findings unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Massi, L. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Oct. 15, 2008; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2291-08.2008</p> <p>Contact: François Georges, INSERM, Bordeaux, France e-mail: francois.georges@inserm.fr</p> <p>Contact: Olivier J. Manzoni, same affiliation as above e-mail: olivier.mazoni@inserm.fr</p>