This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Anxiety	Corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF); CRF receptor 2 (CRHR2; CRFR2)	<p>Studies in rats suggest that antagonizing CRFR2 could help treat social anxiety. In rats showing social anxiety-like behavior, a CRF receptor antagonist delivered to the brain led to reduced signs of anxiety compared with vehicle. The antagonist had a higher affinity for CRFR2 than for CRFR1. An upcoming publication will describe the antianxiety effects of specifically targeting CRFR2 in the rat model. Partners Neurocrine Biosciences Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline plc have two CRFR1 antagonists in clinical development: 561679, which is in Phase II testing to treat major depressive disorder (MDD), and 586529, which is in Phase I testing to treat anxiety and depression.</p> <p>SciBX 2(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1248 Published online Aug. 20, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Lukkes, J. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Aug. 12, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0854-09.2009</p> <p>Contact: Gina Forster, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S.D. e-mail: gforster@usd.edu</p>