This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Anxiety; depression	Corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF1); CRF1 receptor 1 (CRHR1; CRFR1)	<p>A study in animals identified a pyrazinone-based CRHR1 antagonist that could help treat anxiety, depression and other stress-related disorders. In rats, the CRF1 antagonist significantly reduced signs of anxiety compared with vehicle ($p < 0.05$). The compound was safe at doses up to 175 mg/kg. In beagles, the compound had a 30-hour i.v. half-life and an oral bioavailability of 53% and 70% when given as an aqueous suspension or in vehicle, respectively. Next steps could include evaluating the compound in additional animal models of anxiety and depression. At least five companies have CRF1 receptor antagonists in Phase II or earlier to treat anxiety or depression.</p> <p>SciBX 2(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1386 Published online Sept. 17, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Hartz, R.A. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Sept. 1, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900716v</p> <p>Contact: Richard A. Hartz, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., Wallingford, Conn. e-mail: richard.hartz@bms.com</p>