

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	β -Amyloid ($A\beta$); orexin 1 receptor (OX1R); OX2R	<p>A study in mice suggests that antagonizing OX1R and OX2R could help prevent AD. In a mouse model of AD, antagonizing both Ox1r and Ox2r reduced $A\beta$ plaque burden across multiple brain regions compared with that in vehicle-treated controls. Next steps include determining whether antagonists of OX1R and OX2R lower $A\beta$ levels in humans.</p> <p>Orexin almorexant, an OX1R and OX2R antagonist from Actelion Ltd. and GlaxoSmithKline plc, is in Phase III testing to treat insomnia.</p> <p>GSK649868, an OX1R and OX2R antagonist from GSK and Human Genome Sciences Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat sleep apnea.</p> <p>SciBX 2(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1445 Published online Oct. 1, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Kang, J.-E. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Sept. 24, 2009; doi:10.1126/science.1180962 Contact: David M. Holtzman, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: holtzman@neuro.wustl.edu</p>