

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Cannabinoid CB ₂ receptor (CNR2)	SAR and rat studies identified a series of 5-azaindole compounds as CNR2 agonists that could help treat acute and chronic pain. In rats, the most optimized compound showed good bioavailability, high CNS penetration and efficacy in a model of inflammatory pain and a model of chronic joint pain. Next steps could include further testing of the agonists in animal models of pain. At least four companies have CNR2 agonists in preclinical testing to treat pain.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Giblin, G. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Aug. 10, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm9009857 Contact: Gerard M.P. Giblin, GlaxoSmithKline plc, Verona, Italy e-mail: ged.m.giblin@gsk.com
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