

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Cognitive dysfunction; neurology	Potassium voltage-gated channel subfamily H member 3 (KCNH3; BEC1)	A study in mice suggests that inhibiting BEC1 could help treat neurological disorders associated with cognitive dysfunction. In a series of cognitive tests, <i>Bec1</i> -deficient mice showed better learning and memory than wild-type controls. In contrast, mice that overexpressed <i>Bec1</i> had lower cognitive performance than wild-type controls. Next steps could include screening for BEC1 inhibitors and evaluating whether the compounds improve cognitive ability in animal models.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Miyake, A. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Nov. 18, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0901-09.2009 Contact: Akira Miyake, Astellas Pharma Inc., Ibaraki, Japan e-mail: akira.miyake@jp.astellas.com
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