

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	solute carrier family 17, sodium-dependent inorganic phosphate cotransporter, member 8 (SLC17A8; VGLUT3)	A study in mice suggests that antagonizing VGLUT3 could help treat neuropathic pain caused by mechanical hypersensitivity. VGLUT3 is an intracellular glutamate transporter expressed in a small subset of dorsal root ganglia neurons. In mice, animals with <i>VGLUT3</i> knockout had less sensitivity to mechanical pain but normal responses to heat and cold compared with wild-type controls. Next steps include identifying selective inhibitors of VGLUT3 and testing them in mouse models of pain.	Patented; unavailable for licensing	Seal, R.P. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Nov. 15, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08505 Contact: Robert Edwards, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: Robert.Edwards@ucsf.edu
		SciBX 2(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1736 Published online Dec. 10, 2009		