

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Addiction	Peroxisome proliferation-activated receptor- α (PPARA; PPAR- α)	<p>Studies in rats suggest that treatment with fatty acid ethanolamides could treat nicotine addiction. In rats, intracerebral administration of oleoylethanolamide (OEA) and palmitoylethanolamide (PEA) activated PPAR-α in the brain, which inhibited the dopaminergic neuronal response to nicotine compared with that seen in control rats. Next steps include developing stable OEA and PEA analogs that can cross the blood-brain barrier.</p> <p>There are at least 15 PPAR-α agonists in developmental stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat diabetes, dyslipidemia and metabolic disorders.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.22 Published online Jan. 8, 2009</p>	Patented; unlicensed	<p>Melis, M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Dec. 17, 2008; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3221-08.2008</p> <p>Contact: Marco Pistis, University of Cagliari, Monserrato, Italy e-mail: mpistis@unica.it</p>