

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Insomnia	GABA _B receptor 1 (GABBR1)	<p>A study in mice suggests that modulating GABBR1 could be useful for treating insomnia and other sleep disorders. Mice with GABBR1 disruption in orexin-producing neurons had severe disruptions in their sleep/wake cycles compared with that seen in wild-type controls. Orexin is a peptide hormone that promotes wakefulness and appetite. Next steps include testing the effect of GABBR1 agonists and antagonists on orexin-mediated wakefulness and characterizing the neurons and receptors that are controlled by orexin-producing neurons.</p> <p>ADX71943, a positive allosteric modulator (PAM) of GABBR1 from Addex Pharmaceuticals Ltd., is in preclinical development to treat gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), incontinence and pain.</p> <p>AGI Therapeutics plc's AGI-006, an <i>R</i>-isomer of the GABBR1 agonist baclofen, is in Phase II trials to treat dyspepsia and gastroparesis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.372 Published online March 5, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Matsuki, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 12, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811126106</p> <p>Contact: Takeshi Sakurai, Kanazawa University, Kanazawa, Japan e-mail: tsakurai@med.kanazawa-u.ac.jp</p> <p>Contact: Masashi Yanagisawa, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: masashi.yanagisawa@utsouthwestern.edu</p>