

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Huntington's disease (HD)	$\alpha$ -Amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic acid glutamate receptor (GRIA; AMPAR); brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF)	A study in mice suggests that AMPAR agonists that stimulate BDNF production could be useful for treating HD. In a mouse model of HD, injection of the AMPAR agonist CX929 raised BDNF levels and increased cognitive performance and locomotor activity compared with what was seen in mock-treated controls. Next steps include testing AMPAR agonists in other cell culture and mouse models of HD and starting clinical trials of lead compounds. Cortex Pharmaceuticals Inc. has analogs of CX929 in preclinical development to treat HD.  <b>SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.419</b> <b>Published online March 12, 2009</b>	Use of CX929 and related compounds to treat cognitive disorders and increase growth factor production patented by Cortex Pharmaceuticals; licensing status undisclosed <b>Contact:</b> Mark Varney, Cortex Pharmaceuticals Inc., Irvine, Calif. e-mail: <a href="mailto:mvarney@cortexpharm.com">mvarney@cortexpharm.com</a>	Simmons, D.A. <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811228106 <b>Contact:</b> Danielle A. Simmons, University of California, Irvine, Calif. e-mail: <a href="mailto:danielle.a.simmons@gmail.com">danielle.a.simmons@gmail.com</a> <b>Contact:</b> Gary Lynch, same affiliation as above e-mail: <a href="mailto:glynch@uci.edu">glynch@uci.edu</a>