This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Depression	Serotonin (5-HT _{2C}) receptor (HTR _{2C} ; 5-HT _{2C})	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that tranylcypromine analogs could function as 5-HT _{2C} agonists to treat depression. <i>In vitro</i> , the most potent of the 67 analogs had 120-fold and 14-fold greater selectivity for 5-HT _{2C} over that for 5-HT _{2A} and 5-HT _{2B} , respectively. The compound also decreased immobility time in a mouse forced- swim test, which is a proxy for depressed behavior. Studies in larger animal models are ongoing to determine the best lead for clinical development. At least four companies have compounds targeting 5-HT _{2C} in development stages ranging from clinical to marketed to treat obesity, anxiety or depression.	Patent application filed for multiple therapeutic areas; available for licensing worldwide jointly through Case Western Reserve University and University of Illinois at Chicago	Cho, S. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online March 13, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801354e Contact: Alan P. Kozikowski, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: kozikowa@uic.edu Contact: Bryan L. Roth, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: bryan_roth@med.unc.edu
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