

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Pain	Cannabinoid CB <sub>1</sub> receptor (CNR1); CNR2	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified hexahydrocannabinol-based CNR1-specific agonists that could help treat pain. <i>In vitro</i>, the compound, AM2389, agonized CNR1 with an EC<sub>50</sub> of 1.5 nM and 26-fold greater binding for CNR1 over CNR2. In a rat model of pain, AM2389 decreased nociception compared with vehicle control. Next steps include testing derivatives of these compounds in nonhuman primates.</p> <p>At least three companies have CNR1 or CNR2 agonists in development stages ranging from preclinical to Phase I testing to treat pain.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1157</b>  <b>Published online Sept. 30, 2010</b></p>	Patented; licensed to MAKScientific LLC	<p>Nikas, S.P. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Sept. 9, 2010;            doi:10.1021/jm100641g  <b>Contact:</b> Alexandros Makriyannis, Northeastern University, Boston, Mass.            e-mail:  <a href="mailto:a.makriyannis@neu.edu">a.makriyannis@neu.edu</a>  <b>Contact:</b> Spyros P. Nikas, same affiliation as above            e-mail:  <a href="mailto:s.nikas@neu.edu">s.nikas@neu.edu</a></p>