This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Fatty acid amide hydrolase (FAAH)	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest that a peripherally restricted FAAH antagonist could be useful for treating pain. An SAR study identified the FAAH antagonist URB937, a *p*-hydroxyphenyl-*O*-arylcarbamate, as a compound with more potent *in vitro* activity and less brain penetration in mice than the parent compound. In mouse models of neural injury, URB937 decreased sensitivity to mechanical, thermal and inflammatory pain compared with vehicle control. Next steps include further preclinical development and clinical testing in pain indications. Pfizer Inc.'s FAAH inhibitor PF-04457845 has completed Phase II testing to treat osteoarthritis of the knee. Ironwood Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s IW-6118 has completed Phase II testing for pain associated with tooth extraction. Infinity Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s IPI-940, co-developed with Mundipharma International Ltd. and Purdue Pharma L.P., has completed Phase I testing in pain. Vernalis plc.'s V158866 FAAH inhibitor is in preclinical development for pain. *SciBX* 3(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1158 Published online Sept. 30, 2010	Patent pending; available for licensing	Clapper, J.R. *et al. Nat. Neurosci.*; published online Sept. 19, 2010; doi:10.1038/nn.2632 **Contact:** Daniele Piomelli, University of California, Irvine, Calif. e-mail: piomelli@uci.edu or daniele.piomelli@iit.it