

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	Agrin (AGRN)	<p>Rat studies identified an acetaminophen analog that increased agrin expression to help treat neuropathic pain. In a rat model of chronic constrictive injury, decreased agrin expression in the sciatic nerve was associated with increased severity of allodynia. In the same rats, an acetaminophen analog prevented decreases in agrin expression and blocked the development of post-injury allodynia compared with vehicle control. In rats with established allodynia, the analog decreased neuropathic pain compared with vehicle control. Next steps include clinical testing of the analog.</p> <p>SciBX 3(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1364 Published online Nov. 18, 2010</p>	<p>Patent applications filed covering findings; compound available for licensing</p>	<p>Cui, J.-G. & Bazan, N.G. <i>J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Nov. 10, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4418-10.2010 Contact: Nicolas G. Bazan, LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, La. e-mail: nbazan@lsuhsc.edu Contact: Jian-Guo Cui, same affiliation as above e-mail: jcui@lsuhsc.edu</p>