This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Addiction	Small conductance calcium-activated potassium channel (KCNN; SK)	<i>Ex vivo</i> and rat studies suggest that activating the SK could help treat alcohol addiction. In rats abstaining from alcohol self-administration, an SK activator delivered directly into the nucleus accumbens core reduced motivation to obtain alcohol compared with vehicle. Next steps include testing chlorzoxazone, a generic myorelaxant that activates SKs, in clinical trials and identifying new SK activators. SciBX 3(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.382 Published online March 25, 2010	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Hopf, F. <i>et al. Neuron</i> ; published online March 10, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2010.02.015 Contact: Frederic Woody Hopf, Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center at University of California, San Francisco, Emeryville, Calif. e-mail: woody@gallo.ucsf.edu