

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Metabotropic glutamate receptor subtype 4 (mGluR4)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that agonizing mGluR4 could help treat MS. In the experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) mouse model of MS, animals given a positive allosteric modulator of mGluR4 had less spinal cord demyelination than similarly treated <i>mglur4</i>-deficient EAE mice. In a mouse model of relapsed-remitting EAE, the compound reduced the number and severity of relapses compared with vehicle control. Future studies could include identifying mGluR4-targeting compounds that affect EAE progression after the onset of symptoms.</p> <p>mGluR4 PAM, a positive allosteric modulator of mGluR4 from Addex Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Merck & Co. Inc., is in preclinical testing to treat Parkinson's disease (PD) and anxiety.</p> <p>SciBX 3(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.915 Published online Aug. 5, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Fallarino, F. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online July 25, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2183</p> <p>Contact: Ursula Grohmann, University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy e-mail: ugrohmann@tin.it</p>