

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Depression	Oxytocin receptor (OXTR)	<p>A study in humans suggests modulating OXTR could be useful for treating mood disorders including depression. In a psychological assessment of 326 subjects, carriers of the A allele of <i>OXTR</i> had lower optimism and self-esteem than individuals homozygous for the more common G allele ($p=0.031$ and $p=0.004$, respectively). Next steps include determining the functional differences between the G and A alleles of <i>OXTR</i> and testing whether pharmacological modulation of OXTR can affect psychological characteristics.</p> <p>Trigemina Inc. has nasally delivered oxytocin in Phase IIa testing for chronic headache.</p> <p>Pastorus Pharma LLC has nasally delivered oxytocin in preclinical development for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and schizophrenia.</p> <p>SciBX 4(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1048 Published online Sept. 22, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Saphire-Bernstein, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 6, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1113137108 Contact: Shelley E. Taylor, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: taylors@psych.ucla.edu</p>