

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Autism; neurology	Serotonin (5-HT) receptor	Rat studies suggest the use of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) in juveniles could contribute to abnormal neurological development and behaviors associated with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Male rat pups receiving the SSRI Celexa citalopram as neonates had an exaggerated fear response to auditory stimuli and lower tendency to engage in play behaviors compared with treated female rat pups and controls given saline. Next steps could include retrospective and prospective studies in children to determine ASD risk in children receiving Celexa or other SSRIs. Celexa is an SSRI marketed by H. Lundbeck A/S and Forest Laboratories Inc. to treat depression.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Simpson, K.L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Oct. 24, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1109353108 Contact: Rick C.S. Lin, The University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, Miss. e-mail: rclin@umc.edu
<p>SciBX 4(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1242 Published online Nov. 10, 2011</p>				