SciBX
Science-Business eXchange

THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Parkinson's disease (PD)	Metabotropic glutamate receptor subtype 4 (mGluR4; GRM4)	*In vitro* and rat studies suggest mGluR4 positive allosteric modulators (PAMs) could be combined with existing PD therapies to treat PD. In a PD rat model of forelimb asymmetry, a selective mGluR4 PAM plus L-dopa increased forelimb function compared with either compound alone. In a PD rat model of catalepsy, an mGluR4 PAM plus preladenant improved behavior compared with either compound alone. Ongoing work includes investigating whether mGluR4 PAMs can decrease L-dopa-induced dyskinesias in animal models and optimizing a new series of mGluR4 PAMs to treat PD. Preladenant (MK-3814; SCH 420814), an adenosine A_{2A} receptor ($ADORA_{2A}$) antagonist from Merck & Co. Inc., is in Phase III testing to treat PD. Istradefylline (KW-6002), an $ADORA_{2A}$ antagonist from Kyowa Hakko Kirin Co. Ltd., is in Phase III testing to treat PD. SYN115, a selective $ADORA_{2A}$ antagonist from Biotie Therapies Corp. and UCB Group, is in Phase II testing to treat PD.	Unpatented; available for licensing from Vanderbilt University **Contact:** P. Jeffrey Conn, Vanderbilt Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: jeffrey.conn@vanderbilt.edu **Contact:** Mary Kosinski, Vanderbilt Center for Technology Transfer and Commercialization, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: mary.kosinski@vanderbilt.edu	Jones, C.K. *et al. J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.*; published online Nov. 16, 2011; doi:10.1124/jpet.111.187443 **Contact:** Colleen M. Niswender, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: colleen.niswender@vanderbilt.edu

SciBX 4(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1301
Published online Dec. 1, 2011