

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	μ-Opioid receptor (OPRM1; MOR)	Rat studies suggest brief high-dose delivery of OPRM1 agonists could help treat some forms of pain. In rats, a one-hour, high-dose i.v. infusion of Ultiva remifentanyl, an ultra-short-acting OPRM1 agonist, suppressed pain-associated responses in nerve fibers compared with pretreatment baseline. In rats, Ultiva significantly attenuated capsaicin-induced hyperalgesia compared with saline. Next steps include determining whether brief high-dose opioids could reverse or improve some forms of chronic pain in patients. Mylan Inc. markets Ultiva as an analgesic.	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Drdla-Schutting, R. <i>et al. Science</i> ; published online Jan. 13, 2012; doi:10.1126/science.1211726 Contact: Jürgen Sandkühler, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria e-mail: juergen.sandkuehler@meduniwien.ac.at
<p><i>SciBX</i> 5(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.106 Published online Jan. 26, 2012</p>				