

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)	All- <i>trans</i> -retinal production	<p>Studies in mice identified amine-containing FDA-approved compounds that could help treat dry AMD. A mouse model of retinal degeneration caused by toxic all-<i>trans</i>-retinal production was used to screen drugs. In the mice, Lyrica pregabalin or a stereoisomer of the compound decreased all-<i>trans</i>-retinal levels and improved retinal morphology compared with vehicle. Next steps include further preclinical testing of undisclosed lead candidates identified in the same screen.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc. markets Lyrica, a γ-aminobutyric acid receptor (GABAR) agonist, for neurological pain, epilepsy and fibromyalgia.</p> <p>The corresponding author has cofounded Visum Therapeutics Inc. to commercialize the work.</p> <p>SciBX 5(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.108 Published online Jan. 26, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; exclusively licensed to Visum Therapeutics	<p>Maeda, A. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Dec. 25, 2011; doi:10.1038/nchembio.759</p> <p>Contact: Krzysztof Palczewski, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: kxp65@case.edu</p>