

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Depression	Microtubule-associated protein 2 (MAP2)	<p>Studies in mice identified a pregnenolone derivative that could help treat depression. In a mouse model of depression, 3β-methoxy-pregnenolone (MAP4343) decreased depression-like behavior compared with vehicle or Prozac fluoxetine. <i>In vitro</i>, MAP4343 bound MAP2 and stimulated microtubule assembly. Next steps at Mapreg S.A.S. include studying MAP343 in animal models of other neuropsychiatric disorders.</p> <p>Eli Lilly and Co. markets Prozac to treat major depressive disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), bulimia nervosa and panic disorder.</p> <p>SciBX 5(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.131 Published online Feb. 2, 2012</p>	Findings covered in U.S. by a pending patent; available for licensing from Mapreg	<p>Bianchi, M. & Baulieu, E.-E. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 19, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1121485109</p> <p>Contact: Etienne-Emile Baulieu, Mapreg S.A.S., Le Kremlin-Bicetre, France e-mail: etienne.baulieu@inserm.fr</p>