

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Other</b>				
Hearing loss	Phosphodiesterase-5 (PDE-5)	<p>Rodent studies suggest PDE-5 inhibitors could help prevent or treat noise-induced hearing loss. In rats or mice exposed to pathologically loud noise, Levitra vardenafil given before or six hours after exposure decreased hearing loss compared with vehicle. Next steps could include studying the effect of Pde-5 inhibitors on sensory hair cells and the damage to sensory neural cells. Levitra is a PDE-5 inhibitor marketed by Bayer AG and GlaxoSmithKline plc to treat erectile dysfunction.</p> <p>At least four other companies have PDE-5 inhibitors marketed or in registration to treat erectile dysfunction or hypertension.</p> <p><b>SciBX 5(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.133</b> Published online Feb. 2, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Jaumann, M. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 22, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2634</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Lukas Rüttiger, Tuebingen Hearing Research Centre, Tuebingen, Germany e-mail: <a href="mailto:lukas.ruettiger@uni-tuebingen.de">lukas.ruettiger@uni-tuebingen.de</a></p>