

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Rett syndrome	Neurotrophic tyrosine kinase receptor 2 (NTRK2; TrkB)	<p>Mouse studies suggest TrkB agonists could help improve breathing dysfunction in patients with Rett syndrome. Rett syndrome patients and mouse models of Rett syndrome have lower levels of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), which increase respiratory frequency. In a mouse model of Rett syndrome, a small molecule agonist of the Bdnf receptor TrkB restored levels of Bdnf and activated TrkB in the brain, and lowered breathing frequency compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include developing a TrkB agonist.</p> <p>SciBX 5(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.161 Published online Feb. 9, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Schmid, D.A. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Feb. 1, 2012; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0865-11.2012 Contact: David M. Katz, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: david.katz@case.edu</p>