

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Schizophrenia	Dopamine D2 receptor; ghrelin receptor (GHSR)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest a heterodimeric complex of the dopamine D2 receptor and GHSR may be involved in hyperphagia caused by antipsychotic therapy. In cultured primary hypothalamic neurons, the D2 receptor and GHSR were physically associated, and treatment with antagonists of either receptor blocked dopamine receptor-induced neuronal activation compared with vehicle treatment. Ghslr knockout mice receiving a D2 receptor agonist had less food intake than wild-type controls. Next steps include identifying selective modulators of the D2 receptor-GHSR complex and other dopamine receptor complexes and testing their effects in mouse models of schizophrenia.</p> <p>At least 12 companies have D2 receptor antagonists in development and on the market for schizophrenia and other neurological indications.</p> <p>SciBX 5(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.162 Published online Feb. 9, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Kern, A. <i>et al. Neuron</i>; published online Jan. 26, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2011.10.038</p> <p>Contact: Roy G. Smith, Scripps Florida, Jupiter, Fla. e-mail: rgsmith@scripps.edu</p>