

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)	Metabotropic glutamate receptor subtype 5 (mGluR5; GRM5)	<p>Studies in mice suggest agonizing mGluR5 may help treat a hereditary form of ASD caused by tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC). In a mouse model of TSC, brain slices showed deficient mGluR5 signaling compared with brain slices from wild-type controls. Treatment with a positive allosteric modulator of mGluR5 increased electrophysiological functioning in brain slices and decreased ASD-like behavior compared with vehicle treatment. Next steps could include additional preclinical development of mGluR5 agonists in preparation for clinical trials in TSC patients.</p> <p>Addex Pharmaceuticals Ltd.'s ADX63365, a positive allosteric modulator of mGluR5, is in preclinical development for cognitive dysfunction and schizophrenia.</p> <p>Seaside Therapeutics Inc., which was cofounded by the corresponding author of this study, has mGluR5 agonists in discovery for various forms of ASD.</p> <p>SciBX 5(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.23 Published online Jan. 5, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Auerbach, B.D. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Nov. 23, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10658</p> <p>Contact: Mark F. Bear, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: mbear@mit.edu</p>