This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Autism	Metabotropic glutamate receptor subtype 5 (mGluR5; GRM5)	<p>Studies in mice suggest antagonizing mGluR5 could help treat autism. In a mouse model of autism, the negative allosteric mGluR5 modulator GRN-529 (PF-05212391) decreased self-grooming and stereotyped jumping and increased social functioning compared with no treatment. Next steps could include further preclinical evaluation in preparation for clinical trials in autism or fragile X syndrome.</p> <p>Seaside Therapeutics Inc. and Merck & Co. Inc. have the mGluR5 antagonist STX107 in Phase II testing for autism and fragile X syndrome.</p> <p>Other mGluR5 antagonists in Phase II trials for the indication include Novartis AG's AFQ056 and RG7090 from Roche and Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.</p> <p>SciBX 5(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.556 Published online May 24, 2012</p>	GRN-529 patented by Pfizer Inc.; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Silverman, J.L. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online April 25, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003501</p> <p>Contact: Jacqueline N. Crawley, National Institute of Mental Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: crawleyj@mail.nih.gov</p> <p>Contact: Jill L. Silverman, same affiliation as above e-mail: silvermanj@mail.nih.gov</p> <p>Contact: Robert H. Ring, Autism Speaks, Princeton, N.J. e-mail: robert.ring@autismspeaks.org</p> <p>Contact: Daniel G. Smith, Pfizer Worldwide Research and Development, Groton, Conn. e-mail: daniel.g.smith@pfizer.com</p>