This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Addiction	μ-Opioid receptor (OPRM1; MOR); OPRK1 (KOR); OPR	<p>Rat studies suggest buprenorphine and naltrexone could help treat cocaine addiction in nonopioid-dependent individuals. Use of the synthetic opioid buprenorphine is associated with a risk of opioid dependence. In rat models of cocaine addiction, daily treatment for five days with buprenorphine and low-dose naltrexone decreased cocaine self-administration compared with vehicle treatment. The co-treatment also decreased opioid dependence and withdrawal symptoms compared with buprenorphine alone. Future studies could include longer-term animal studies of the combination.</p> <p>Buprenorphine, a generic MOR agonist and KOR antagonist, is marketed to treat opioid dependence and pain.</p> <p>Naltrexone, a generic OPR antagonist, is marketed to treat alcohol dependence and opioid dependence.</p> <p>SciBX 5(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.870 Published online Aug. 23, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Wee, S. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 8, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003948</p> <p>Contact: George F. Koob, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: gkoob@scripps.edu</p>