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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Cognitive dysfunction	NMDAR	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest 24(*S*) hydroxycholesterol (24(*S*)-HC) could help treat cognitive dysfunction. In screening studies using patch-clamp recordings on mouse hippocampal neurons, 24(*S*)-HC was selected from a panel of sterol-based compounds as a potent submicromolar potentiator of NMDAR-mediated currents. In mouse hippocampal slices, 24(*S*)-HC produced long-term potentiation (LTP) from a subthreshold tetanus stimulus and reversed NMDAR antagonist–induced LTP suppression. In behavioral memory tests in mice, a 24(*S*)-HC analog reversed NMDAR agonist suppression of memory-dependent activity. Next steps are being performed by Sage Therapeutics Inc. and include optimizing 24(*S*)-HC analogs in models of schizophrenia. *SciBX* 6(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1395 Published online Dec. 19, 2013	Patent application filed by Sage Therapeutics; licensing information available from Sage Therapeutics **Contact:** Jeff Jonas, Sage Therapeutics Inc., Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: jeff@sagerx.com	Paul, S.M. *et al. J. Neurosci.*; published online Oct. 30, 2013; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2619-13.2013 **Contact:** Steven M. Paul, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y. e-mail: smpaulmd@med.cornell.edu