

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Depression; anxiety	Glucocorticoid receptor (GCCR); <i>disrupted in schizophrenia 1 (DISC1)</i>	<p>Mouse studies suggest blocking the glucocorticoid receptor in the brain could help treat adult-onset neuropsychiatric disorders triggered by adolescent stress. In adolescent transgenic mice expressing depression-associated <i>DISC1</i> and subjected to three weeks of isolation stress, a small molecule GCCR antagonist decreased depressive-like social behavior compared with vehicle control. The behavioral improvements were associated with normalized DNA methylation of the promoter of <i>tyrosine hydroxylase (TH; TYH)</i>, which is part of the biosynthetic pathway of the neurotransmitter dopamine. Next steps include looking for additional epigenetic modifications that may occur following prolonged adolescent stress.</p> <p>SciBX 6(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.144 Published online Feb. 14, 2013</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Niwa, N. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Jan. 18, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1226931 Contact: Akira Sawa, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: asawa1@jhmi.edu Contact: Toshitaka Nabeshima, Meijo University, Nagoya, Japan e-mail: tnabeshi@meijo-u.ac.jp</p>