This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Addiction	Metabotropic glutamate receptor subtype 2 (mGluR2; GRM2)	<p>Patient sample and rat studies suggest normalizing mGluR2 expression could help treat alcoholism. Infralimbic cortex glutamatergic neurons from alcohol-dependent rats showed lower <i>mGluR2</i> expression than matched neurons from nondependent rats. In the alcohol-dependent rats, lentiviral vector-induced expression of <i>mGluR2</i> in the infralimbic cortex decreased alcohol-seeking behaviors compared with expression of a control gene. Postmortem brain tissue samples from alcohol-dependent patients showed 2.6-fold lower <i>mGluR2</i> expression in the anterior cingulate cortex than samples from age-matched nonalcoholics. Next steps include determining whether mGluR2 dysfunction alone is sufficient to induce addiction-prone responses and how addiction blocks mGluR2 signaling.</p> <p>SciBX 6(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.166 Published online Feb. 21, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Meinhardt, M.W. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Feb. 13, 2013; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4062-12.2013</p> <p>Contact: Wolfgang H. Sommer, Central Institute of Mental Health, Mannheim, Germany e-mail: wolfgang.sommer@zi-mannheim.de</p>