This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Fragile X syndrome	Cannabinoid CB ₁ receptor (CNR1); CNR2	<p>Mouse studies suggest blocking the endocannabinoid system could help treat fragile X syndrome. In mouse models for fragile X syndrome, the small molecule CNR1 antagonist rimonabant decreased cognitive impairment and susceptibility to noise-induced seizures compared with vehicle. In the mouse model, a research-grade small molecule CNR2 antagonist decreased anxiolytic behaviors compared with vehicle. Next steps include seeking a partner to carry out clinical studies and characterizing the effects of other molecules that antagonize the endocannabinoid system in animals.</p> <p>Sanofi discontinued marketing Acomplia/Zimulti rimonabant to treat obesity in 2007 due to psychiatric side effects.</p> <p>At least five companies have CNR1 and/or CNR2 antagonists in Phase I testing or earlier to treat endocrine/metabolic, hepatic or neurological indications.</p> <p>SciBX 6(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.341 Published online April 11, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Busquets-Garcia, A. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online March 31, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3127</p> <p>Contact: Andrés Ozaita, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: andres.ozaita@upf.edu</p>