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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	Histone deacetylase 2 (HDAC2)	Mouse studies suggest inhibiting HDAC2 in the brain could help improve cognitive function in neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative diseases. Mice with forebrain-specific disruption of *Hdac2* showed better performance on tests of conditioned associative learning and had higher hippocampal synaptic function than wild-type controls. Next steps include identifying and testing brain-penetrant, selective inhibitors of HDAC2 in murine models for cognitive dysfunction. Acetylon Pharmaceuticals Inc. has an inhibitor of HDAC1 and HDAC2 in preclinical development for thalassemia and sickle cell disease. *SciBX* 6(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.495 Published online May 23, 2013	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Morris, M.J. *et al. J. Neurosci.*; published online April 10, 2013; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1001-12.2013 **Contact:** Lisa M. Monteggia, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: lisa.monteggia@utsouthwestern.edu