

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Pain	μ -Opioid receptor (OPRM1; MOR); metabotropic glutamate receptor subtype 5 (mGluR5; GRM5)	<p>A mouse study suggests bivalent ligands with OPRM1 agonist and mGluR5 antagonist activity could help treat chronic inflammatory pain. In lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-pretreated mice, intrathecal administration of bivalent inhibitors yielded a more potent anti-nociceptive response in tail flick assays than administration of monovalent inhibitors without inducing acute tolerance. Next steps include generation of bivalent ligands for other heteromeric receptors.</p> <p>At least six companies have mGluR5 antagonists in Phase III or earlier development for neurology indications.</p> <p>SciBX 6(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.765 Published online Aug. 1, 2013</p>	Series of bivalent ligands patented; licensing status unavailable	<p>Akgün, E. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 24, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1305461110</p> <p>Contact: Philip S. Portoghese, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. e-mail: porto001@maroon.tc.umn.edu</p>