

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Depression	Peroxisome proliferation-activated receptor- γ coactivator 1 α (PPARGC1A; PGC-1 α)	<p>Mouse studies suggest increasing skeletal muscle PGC-1α expression could help treat chronic stress-induced depression. In a mouse model of chronic mild stress, overexpression of the PGC-1α mouse homolog Pgc-1α1 in skeletal muscle led to decreased depression-associated behaviors compared with wild-type <i>Pgc-1α1</i> expression. In mice, Pgc-1α1 overexpression blocked depression-associated behaviors caused by injection with the tryptophan metabolite L-kynurenine. Next steps include identifying the targets of L-kynurenine and finding compounds that induce PGC-1α.</p> <p>SciBX 7(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1187 Published online Oct. 16, 2014</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Agudelo, L.Z. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Sept. 25, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2014.07.051 Contact: Maria Lindskog, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: mia.lindskog@ki.se Contact: Jorge L. Ruas, same affiliation as above e-mail: jorge.ruas@ki.se</p>