

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Addiction	Metabotropic glutamate receptor subtype 2 (mGluR2; GRM2); mGluR3 (GRM3)	<i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest positive allosteric modulators (PAMs) of both mGluR2 and mGluR3 could help treat cocaine addiction. In <i>in vitro</i> receptor binding assays, the optimal PAM potentiated binding of glutamate to mGluR2 with an EC ₅₀ value of 0.14 μM and to mGluR3 with an EC ₅₀ value of 0.3 μM. In a rat model of cocaine dependence, the PAM decreased cocaine self-administration compared with vehicle. Next steps include optimization studies and generation of selective activators of mGluR3. Addex Therapeutics Ltd. and Johnson & Johnson have the mGluR2 PAM ADX71149 (JNJ-40411813) in Phase II trials to treat anxiety and schizophrenia.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Dhanya, R.-P. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online April 15, 2014; doi:10.1021/jm5000563 Contact: Nicholas D.P. Cosford, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: ncosford@sanfordburnham.org
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