This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Collagen VI (COL6)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that COL6 could potentially help treat AD. In a mouse model of AD and in AD patients, brains showed higher neuronal expression of Col6 than non-AD control brains. In primary mouse neuronal cultures treated with a β-amyloid ($A\beta$) oligomer, neurons lacking collagen VI production had a higher percentage of cell death than wild-type neurons. Wild-type neurons pretreated with collagen VI formed fewer potentially neurotoxic $A\beta$ oligomers than vehicle-treated wild-type neurons. Next steps include further assessment of the interaction between $A\beta$ and collagen VI and analysis of the protective effects in animal models of AD.</p> <p>SciBX 2(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.103 Published online Jan. 22, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Cheng, J. <i>et al. Nat. Neurosci.</i>; published online Jan. 4, 2009; doi:10.1038/nn.2240</p> <p>Contact: Lennart Mucke, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: lmucke@gladstone.ucsf.edu</p>