This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Amyloid β precursor protein (APP); nicotinic acetylcholine receptor alpha 7 (CHRNA7)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting CHRNA7 could be useful for treating AD. In a human APP-overexpressing mouse model of AD, <i>Chrna7</i> knockout improved learning and memory test performance compared with AD controls that expressed wild-type <i>Chrna7</i>. Next steps include tissue-specific <i>Chrna7</i> knockout in the AD mice and evaluating CHRNA7 antagonists in animal AD models.</p> <p>Razadyne galantamine, an acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitor and nicotinic receptor modulator from Shire plc and Johnson & Johnson, is marketed to treat AD. At least seven other companies have AChE agonists in Phase II or earlier for the same indication.</p> <p>SciBX 2(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1111 Published online July 23, 2009</p>	Model unpatented; not yet available for licensing	<p>Dziewczapolski, G. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online July 8, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.6159-08.2009</p> <p>Contact: Gustavo Dziewczapolski, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: gustavo@salk.edu</p>