This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Apolipoprotein E (APOE)	<p>Determining the presence of the APOE ε4 allele may help predict risk of age-related cognitive decline in individuals who are susceptible to AD. A 13-year longitudinal study in 815 individuals without cognitive impairment or other symptoms of AD showed that the onset of memory decline occurred before the age of 60 and had greater acceleration in carriers of the APOE ε4 allele than in noncarriers ($p=0.03$). The onset of memory decline occurred before the age of 50 in homozygous carriers, whereas no decline was seen in heterozygous carriers ($p=0.008$). Ongoing work will continue to follow this patient cohort to determine what fraction of patients progresses to full dementia and to analyze demographic factors that may contribute to age-related cognitive decline.</p> <p>SciBX 2(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1156 Published online July 30, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Caselli, R. <i>et al.</i> <i>N. Engl. J. Med.</i>; published online July 16, 2009; doi:10.1056/NEJMoa0809437 Contact: Richard J. Caselli, Mayo Clinic Arizona, Scottsdale, Ariz. e-mail: caselli.richard@mayo.edu</p>