This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF)	Studies in mice suggest that neural stem cell therapy elevates BDNF levels, which could help treat neurodegenerative diseases such as AD. In a mouse model of AD, hippocampal delivery of murine neural stem cells increased BDNF levels and rescued learning and memory impairments. In the mice, injection of BDNF alone was also sufficient to induce cognitive rescue. Next steps could include developing ways to upregulate levels of neurotrophins such as BDNF to treat AD.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Blurton-Jones, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online July 20, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0901402106 Contact: Frank M. LaFerla, University of California, Irvine, Calif. e-mail: laferla@uci.edu
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