This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Clusterin (CLU; APOJ); phosphatidylinositol- binding clathrin assembly protein (PICALM)	<p>A genomewide association study suggests that CLU and PICALM could be risk markers for AD. In patients and controls from Europe and the U.S., SNPs in the <i>CLU</i> and <i>PICALM</i> genes were significantly associated with increased incidence of AD ($p=8.5\times 10^{-10}$ and 1.3×10^{-9}, respectively). CLU is an extracellular protein that interacts with β-amyloid (Aβ), a hallmark of AD. PICALM is a protein involved in intracellular trafficking. Next steps include mechanistic studies of how CLU and PICALM affect AD pathogenesis in preclinical models.</p> <p>SciBX 2(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1418 Published online Sept. 24, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Harold, D. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Sept. 6, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.440</p> <p>Contact: Julie Williams, Cardiff University, Cardiff, U.K. e-mail: williamsj@cardiff.ac.uk</p> <p>Contact: Michael J. Owen, same affiliation as above e-mail: owenmj@cardiff.ac.uk</p>