This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 7$ (CHRNA7); β -amyloid ($A\beta$)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that blocking interactions between CHRNA7 and $A\beta$ could help treat AD. In brain lysates from AD patients, the CHRNA7 agonist 2-[2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-oxoethyl]-1-methyl pyridinium (S 24795) reversed the binding of $A\beta$ to CHRNA7. Also in AD brain lysates, S 24795 lowered $A\beta$ -associated defects compared with mock treatment. Next steps include preclinical development of S 24795. CHRNA7 agonists in development for AD include Roche's MEM3454/RG3487, in Phase II, and MEM63908/RG4996, in Phase I, as well as EnVivo Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s EVP6124, in Phase I/II. SciBX 2(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1419 Published online Sept. 24, 2009	Patented by Servier; licensing status undisclosed	Wang, H.-Y. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Sept. 2, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.6088-08.2009 Contact: Hoau-Yan Wang, University of New York Medical School, New York, N.Y. e-mail: hywang@sci.ccny.cuny.edu