This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Glycogen synthase kinase 3 β (GSK3B)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that oxadiazole compounds could help treat AD. SAR studies identified several oxadiazole analogs that were low to moderate nanomolar inhibitors of GSK3B, an enzyme that hyperphosphorylates τ -protein, which is associated with AD-related pathology. In mice, the two leads showed good bioavailability and blood brain barrier penetrability. In mice, the leads decreased levels of τ -protein hyperphosphorylation compared with no treatment. Next steps could include testing the lead compounds in other animal models of AD.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Saitoh, M. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Sept. 23, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900647e Contact: Morihisa Saitoh, Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Osaka, Japan e-mail: Saitoh_Morihisa@takeda.co.jp
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