This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD); amyloidosis	Not applicable	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that fibrillar aggregates that penetrate the cellular membrane may aid in the development of therapeutics that target protein aggregation diseases like AD and amyloidosis. In mammalian cells treated with fluorescently labeled polyglutamine peptide aggregates, the aggregates entered the cytosol, recruited cytoplasmic proteins with homologous sequences and then propagated. The peptide aggregates were maintained in subsequent generations of dividing cells. Next steps could include screening for compounds that prevent the trafficking of fibrillar aggregates across the cellular membrane.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.200 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Ren, P.-H. <i>et al. Nat. Cell Biol.</i>; published online Jan. 18, 2009; doi:10.1038/ncb1830</p> <p>Contact: Ron R. Kopito, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: kopito@stanford.edu</p>