This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Insulin receptor (INSR); β -amyloid ($A\beta$)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that boosting brain insulin signaling could help slow or prevent AD. In hippocampal neurons, insulin treatment prevented oxidative stress and synaptic deterioration induced by toxic, $A\beta$-derived diffusible ligands. Insulin plus the INSR stimulator rosiglitazone increased the ability of insulin to protect synapses against deterioration induced by the ligands. Next steps include determining ways to safely stimulate insulin signaling and to decrease $A\beta$-derived diffusible ligands in the brain.</p> <p>GlaxoSmithKline plc markets Avandia rosiglitazone, a peroxisome proliferation activated receptor-γ (PPARG; PPAR-γ) agonist, to treat diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.238 Published online Feb. 12, 2009</p>	Patent applications filed by Northwestern University covering $A\beta$ -derived diffusible ligands; licensed by Acumen Pharmaceuticals Inc., which granted Merck & Co. Inc. exclusive worldwide rights to develop mAbs, vaccines and diagnostics against $A\beta$ -derived diffusible ligands for AD	<p>De Felice, F. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0809158106</p> <p>Contact: William L. Klein, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. e-mail: wklein@northwestern.edu</p> <p>Contact: Fernanda G. De Felice, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil e-mail: felice@bioqmed.ufrj.br</p>