This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Toll-like receptor 9 (TLR9)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that agonizing TLR9 could be useful for treating AD-related pathology. In a mouse model of AD, stimulation of the innate immune system via TLR9 with CpG DNA oligodeoxynucleotides lowered cortical and vascular β-amyloid ($A\beta$) burden by 66% and 80%, respectively, compared with what was seen using vehicle control. Those decreases were associated with lower levels of $A\beta$ in the brain. Next steps could include testing the safety of inducing TLR9 signaling in AD.</p> <p>There are no fewer than six TLR9 agonists in development stages ranging from preclinical to Phase II for cancer, autoimmune diseases and inflammatory diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.240 Published online Feb. 12, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Scholtzova, H. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Feb. 11, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5715-08.2009</p> <p>Contact: Thomas Wisniewski, New York University School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: thomas.wisniewski@nyumc.org</p> <p>Contact: Daryl S. Spinner, New York State Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities, Staten Island, N.Y. e-mail: darylspinner@aol.com</p>