This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	β -Amyloid ($A\beta$) calcium channel	Studies in cell culture suggest that inhibiting the calcium channel-forming activity of $A\beta$ peptides could be useful for treating AD. $A\beta$ peptides can form calcium conducting-channels in intact neurons. In cultured neuronal cells exposed to $A\beta$, submicromolar doses of amphipathic pyridinium salt MRS2481 or its enantiomer MRS2485, which are small molecule inhibitors of $A\beta$ channel activity, protected the neuronal cells from $A\beta$ toxicity by blocking the $A\beta$ channel. Next steps could include preclinical testing of the compounds in mouse models of AD. SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.290 Published online Feb. 19, 2009	PCT patent application filed; available for licensing Contact: Carol Lavrich, The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine Inc. Joint Office of Technology Transfer, Rockville, Md. e-mail: clavrich@hjf.org	Diaz, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 9, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0813355106 Contact: Harvey Pollard, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: hpollard@usuhs.mil