This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	β -amyloid ($A\beta$)	<p>A study in mice suggests that intracerebroventricular (ICV) perfusion of antibodies against $A\beta$ could be useful for treating AD. In a mouse model of AD, both ICV and systemic delivery of $A\beta$ antibodies lowered brain plaque area and cognitive dysfunction compared with that seen in mock-treated controls. However, ICV also decreased signs of cerebral amyloid angiopathy such as deposition of plaques in the cortical and hippocampal vasculature compared with what was seen in mock-treated or systemically-treated controls. Next steps could include optimizing long-term ICV delivery regimens and testing the effect of ICV therapeutic delivery in animal models of other neurodegenerative disorders.</p> <p>Medtronic Inc. and Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc. have a joint preclinical program to develop Huntington's disease (HD) and Parkinson's disease (PD) therapeutics and delivery methods.</p> <p>SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.414 Published online March 12, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Thakker, D.R. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 25, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0813404106</p> <p>Contact: Lisa L. Shafer, Medtronic Inc., Minneapolis, Minn. e-mail: lisa.l.shafer@medtronic.com</p>