This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	γ -Secretase	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified compounds that could function as γ-secretase inhibitors to treat AD. γ-Secretase processes amyloid-β (Aβ) precursor protein (APP) to form pathogenic β-amyloid (Aβ) plaques in AD. In inhibition and cell-based assays, the compounds adopted a 12-helical structure in solution and were potent and selective γ-secretase inhibitors. Next steps include developing compounds with better selectivity for APP-cleaving γ-secretase over Notch-cleaving γ-secretase. At least five companies have γ-secretase inhibitors in clinical and preclinical development to treat AD.</p> <p>SciBX 2(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.886 Published online May 28, 2009</p>	Compounds unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Imamura, Y. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online May 11, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja9001458</p> <p>Contact: Tsunehiko Higuchi, Nagoya City University, Aichi, Japan e-mail: higuchi@phar.nagoya-cu.ac.jp</p> <p>Contact: Naoki Umezawa, same affiliation as above e-mail: umezawa@phar.nagoya-cu.ac.jp</p> <p>Contact: Taisuke Tomita, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: taisuke@mol.f.u-tokyo.ac.jp</p>