This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	γ -Secretase	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a γ -secretase modulator that could help treat AD without gastrointestinal side effects. A cell-based screen identified compounds that prevented amyloid- β (A β) precursor protein (APP) cleavage at the γ -site without affecting the ϵ -site; affecting the latter site can cause side effects. In a mouse model of AD, oral administration of one of the compounds reduced β -amyloid (A β) in the brain and plasma and decreased plaque deposition without gastrointestinal effects when compared with vehicle administration. Next steps include more preclinical testing and identifying new γ -secretase modulators using a new synthesis method. At least four companies have γ -secretase inhibitors or modulators in clinical testing to treat AD.	The compounds are covered by patents licensed to NeuroGenetic Pharmaceuticals Inc.; patent applications have been filed for the GSM synthesis method by the University of California, San Diego and Massachusetts General Hospital; the synthesis method is available for licensing	Kounnas, M.Z. <i>et al. Neuron</i> ; published online Sept. 8, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2010.08.018 Contact: Steven L. Wagner, Torrey Pines Therapeutics Inc., La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: slwagner@ucsd.edu
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