This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Ryanodine receptor (RyR)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that antagonizing the RyR could help treat AD. In neurons from mouse models of AD, RyR activation increased calcium release and neuronal hyperpolarization and excitability compared with RyR activation in wild-type neurons. In AD-model neurons, blocking RyR prevented the enhanced NMDA receptor-mediated calcium response, returning it to levels seen in wild-type neurons, suggesting that blocking calcium influx could help prevent synaptic dysfunction in AD. Next steps include testing whether blocking RyR can be neuroprotective against NMDA-mediated synapse dysfunction in animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 3(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1099 Published online Sept. 16, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Goussakov, I. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Sept. 8, 2010; doi:10.1523/ JNEUROSCI.2474-10.2010 Contact: Grace E. Stutzmann, Rosalind Franklin University and The Chicago Medical School, North Chicago, Ill. e-mail: grace.stutzmann@rosalindfranklin.edu</p>