This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	β -site APP-cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1); amyloid- β (A β) precursor protein (APP)	<i>In vitro</i> and cell culture studies identified BACE1 antibody fragments that could help treat AD. <i>In vitro</i> , the single-chain variable antibody fragments (scFv) significantly inhibited amyloidogenic BACE1 activity compared with control buffer ($p < 0.05$). In cells overexpressing APP, a BACE1 scFv inhibited amyloidogenic APP processing and decreased cell death compared with buffer control. Next steps could include combining the antibody fragments with a scFv that targets α -secretase.	Patent and licensing information unavailable	Boddapati, S. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Mol. Biol.</i> ; published online Nov. 11, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.jmb.2010.10.054 Contact: Michael R. Sierks, Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz. e-mail: sierks@asu.edu
SciBX 3(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1449 Published online Dec. 16, 2010				