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)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified a BACE1-activated copper-chelating peptide that could help treat AD. <i>In vitro</i>, following cleavage by BACE1, the peptide bound copper ions, which prevented the formation of both β-amyloid (Aβ) aggregates and copper-induced neurotoxic reactive oxygen species (ROS). Next steps include optimizing the molecular weight of the peptide and testing it in animal models of AD.</p> <p>CoMentis Inc. and Astellas Pharma Inc. are developing CTS-21166, a BACE1 inhibitor that is in Phase I testing for AD.</p> <p>TransTech Pharma Inc.'s TTP854 BACE1 inhibitor is in preclinical testing to treat AD.</p> <p>SciBX 3(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.412 Published online April 1, 2010</p>	Findings unpatented; currently unavailable for licensing	<p>Folk, D. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online March 18, 2010; doi:10.1021/ja100943r</p> <p>Contact: Katherine J. Franz, Duke University, Durham, N.C. e-mail: katherine.franz@duke.edu</p>