This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Cognitive dysfunction	Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF)	Studies of human brains suggest that enhancing BDNF levels might help protect the hippocampus from age-related degeneration and memory decline. In MRI scans of adult brains, decreased hippocampal volume correlated with greater age, lower serum BDNF and poorer spatial memory performance. Next steps include confirming the results in a randomized trial that studies hippocampal volume at multiple time points and the role of BDNF levels in the changes of hippocampal structure over time.	Patent status is not applicable; unavailable for licensing	Erikson, K. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online April 14, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.6251-09.2010 Contact: Kirk I. Erickson, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. e-mail: kiericks@pitt.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 3(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.503 Published online April 22, 2010				