This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Aromatase; β -site APP-cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1)	<p>A study in mice suggests that aromatase inhibitors could be useful for treating AD in males. Aromatase converts testosterone to estrogen. In a mouse model of AD, male aromatase knockouts had lower levels of Bace1 activity and β-amyloid (Aβ) deposition than wild-type controls. Aromatase knockouts also had better performance in assays of learning and memory. Next steps include testing the effect of aromatase inhibitors on AD mice.</p> <p>AstraZeneca plc, Novartis AG and Pfizer Inc. market aromatase inhibitors to treat breast cancer.</p> <p>Meditrina Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s MPI-674 and MPI-676 aromatase inhibitors are in Phase II trials for endometrial hyperplasia and endometriosis, respectively.</p> <p>SciBX 3(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.680 Published online June 3, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>McAllister, C. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online May 26, 2010; doi:10.1523/ JNEUROSCI.1180-10.2010 Contact: Rena Li, Banner Sun Health Research Institute, Sun City, Ariz. e-mail: rena.li@bannerhealth.com</p>