This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Amyloid- β (A β) precursor protein (APP)	<p>Mouse and <i>in vitro</i> studies suggest that L-3-n-butylphthalide (L-NBP) could help treat AD. In a mouse model of AD, oral delivery of L-NBP reduced glial cell oxidation and activation, decreased pathogenic β-amyloid (Aβ) plaque formation and improved cognitive impairment compared with delivery of vehicle. In cultured APP-expressing neuroblastoma cells, L-NBP promoted α-secretase cleavage of APP, suggesting that the compound shifts APP processing away from the generation of pathogenic Aβ plaques. Next steps could include clinical testing of the compound to treat AD or dementia.</p> <p>Raptor Pharmaceutical Corp's Posiphen, an APP inhibitor, is in Phase I testing to treat AD.</p> <p>SciBX 3(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.775 Published online June 24, 2010</p>	Patent application filed covering use of L-NBP as antistroke or antidementia compound; licensed by CSPC Pharmaceutical Group Ltd.	<p>Peng, Y. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online June 16, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0340-10.2010</p> <p>Contact: C.A. Lemere, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: clemere@rics.bwh.harvard.edu</p>