This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF)	<p>A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that antagonizing CNTF could help treat AD. In cell culture, recombinant CNTF reduced apoptosis in neurons exposed to pathogenic β-amyloid ($A\beta$) oligomers compared with vehicle control. Mice implanted with CNTF-secreting cells had better cognitive performance after exposure to $A\beta$ than CNTF-free controls. Next steps could include testing the effect of CNTF-secreting implants in other transgenic mouse models of AD.</p> <p>Neurotech Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s NT-501, a formulation of encapsulated cells that secretes recombinant CNTF, is in Phase II testing for retinitis and age-related macular degeneration.</p> <p>SciBX 3(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.776 Published online June 24, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Garcia, P. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online June 2, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4182-09.2010</p> <p>Contact: Thierry Pillot, Nancy University, Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, France e-mail: thierry.pillot@ensaia.inpl-nancy.fr</p>