This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	β -Amyloid (A β)	<p>A study in mice identified a mAb that could help treat AD. The mAb against a synthetic Aβ oligomer restored cognitive performance in mice with AD to levels comparable to those in healthy controls. In a separate mouse model of AD, the mAb significantly increased synaptic spine density in hippocampal pyramidal neurons compared with saline control ($p < 0.05$). Next steps could include testing the mAb in additional rodent AD models. At least 17 companies have Aβ-targeting compounds in Phase III or earlier to treat AD.</p> <p>SciBX 3(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.993 Published online Aug. 19, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Hillen, H. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Aug. 4, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5721-09.2010</p> <p>Contact: Ulrich Ebert, Abbott Laboratories, Ludwigshafen, Germany e-mail: ulrich.ebert@abbott.com</p> <p>Contact: Heinz Hillen, same affiliation as above e-mail: heinz.hillen@abbott.com</p>