This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Gap junction protein $\alpha 1$ 43 kDa (GJA1; CX43); pannexin 1 (PNX1)	Cell culture and electrophysiological studies suggest that antagonizing CX43 and PNX1 could help treat AD. In cultured microglia, astrocytes and neurons, β -amyloid (A β) increased surface levels of channel proteins CX43 and PNX1. In cell culture and hippocampal brain slices, peptide antagonists of CX43 and PNX1 restored normal electrophysiological patterns compared with vehicle control. Next steps include screening for blood brain barrier-penetrating small molecule antagonists of CX43 and PNX1 and testing their effects in AD animal models.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Orellana, J.A. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online March 30, 2011; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.6417-10.2011 Contact: Juan A. Orellana, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Santiago, Chile e-mail: jaorella@uc.cl
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