This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Caspase-3 (CASP3; CPP32)	Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting CASP3 could help treat AD. In a mouse model of early onset AD, CASP3 activity was significantly greater at the start of memory decline than that in wild-type controls ($p < 0.01$). In the same AD model, hippocampal injection of a CASP3 inhibitor rescued memory deficits compared with injection of vehicle ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include detecting CASP3 in human body fluids and identifying an inhibitor that can cross the blood brain barrier.	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	D'Amelio, M. <i>et al. Nat. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Dec. 12, 2010; doi:10.1038/nn.2709 Contact: Francesco Cecconi, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rome, Italy e-mail: francesco.cecconi@uniroma2.it
<i>SciBX</i> 4(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.49 Published online Jan. 13, 2011				