This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Phospholipase D ₂ (PLD ₂)	Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting PLD ₂ could help prevent β -amyloid (A β)-associated toxicity to treat AD. In a transgenic mouse model of AD, PLD ₂ activity in the forebrain was greater than that in forebrains of wild-type controls. In the same AD model, <i>Pld</i> ₂ deficiency led to improvements in memory compared with no <i>Pld</i> ₂ deficiency ($p < 0.01$). Next steps include developing PLD ₂ -specific inhibitors that can penetrate the blood brain barrier and evaluating them in mouse models of AD.	Patent applications filed covering use in multiple indications; available for licensing from the Columbia University Office of Technology Ventures	Oliveira, T.G. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Dec. 8, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3317-10.2010 Contact: Gilbert Di Paolo, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: gil.dipaolo@columbia.edu
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