This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	γ -Secretase; β -amyloid 42	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified metabolically stable γ-secretase modulators that could help treat familial AD. <i>In vitro</i>, triterpene-based γ-secretase modulators with carbamate or ester replacements at the C24 position inhibited pathogenic β-amyloid 42 and showed selectivity over β-amyloid 40. In mice, two of the compounds showed favorable pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic profiles and had blood brain barrier penetration, and decreased β-amyloid 42 levels in the brain compared with vehicle control. Next steps include safety studies on similar compounds.</p> <p>Satori Pharmaceuticals Inc. has γ-secretase inhibitors in preclinical testing to treat AD. At least six other companies have γ-secretase inhibitors in clinical and preclinical development to treat AD.</p> <p>SciBX 5(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1117 Published online Oct. 25, 2012</p>	Patent applications filed; available for licensing	<p>Hubbs, J.L. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 3, 2012; doi:10.1021/jm300976b Contact: Jed L. Hubbs, Satori Pharmaceuticals Inc., Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: jed.hubbs@satoripharma.com</p>