This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD); Huntington's disease (HD)	Caspase-6 (CASP6; MCH2)	<i>In vitro</i> and cell culture studies identified a peptide-based inhibitor of CASP6, which is associated with neurodegenerative diseases such as AD and HD. A screen of a phage display library identified a peptide that bound to the tetramer interface of an inactive form of CASP6, which is called a zymogen. In a neuronal cell line, the peptide blocked the cleavage of a CASP6 substrate. Next steps include screening for small molecules or peptide fragments that target this site and for peptide inhibitors of other caspase zymogens.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Stanger, K. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online June 10, 2012; doi:10.1038/nchembio.967 Contact: Rami N. Hannoush, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: hannoush.rami@gene.com
<i>SciBX</i> 5(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.732 Published online July 19, 2012				