This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Meprin A β (MEP1B)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest inhibiting MEP1B could help treat AD. In brains from patients with AD, MEP1B levels were greater than those in brains from healthy controls. In human embryonic kidney cells, overexpression of amyloid precursor protein (APP) and MEP1B led to higher β -amyloid (A β) levels than normal expression. In the APP- and MEP1B-overexpressing cells, an MEP1B inhibitor decreased A β accumulation compared with vehicle. Next steps could include testing MEP1B inhibitors in mouse models of AD. SciBX 5(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.955 Published online Sept. 13, 2012	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Bien, J. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i> ; published online Aug. 9, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M112.395608 Contact: Claus U. Pietrzik, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Mainz, Germany e-mail: pietrzik@uni-mainz.de Contact: Christoph Becker-Pauly, Christian Albrechts University of Kiel, Kiel, Germany e-mail: cbeckerpauly@biochem.uni-kiel.de