This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	β -Amyloid (A β)	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified synthetic peptides derived from Russell's viper venom that could help treat AD. Treatment of aggregated A β with synthetic peptides derived from a venom protein destabilized the aggregates and caused disassembly into nontoxic monomers. In a human neuroblastoma cell line treated with A β aggregates, pretreatment with the synthetic peptides decreased cell death and cytotoxicity of the aggregates compared with pretreatment using nonspecific control peptides. Next steps include testing the peptides in animal models of AD and for human blood brain barrier penetration. SciBX 6(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1066 Published online Oct. 3, 2013	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Bhattacharjee, P. & Bhattacharyya, D. <i>J. Biol. Chem.</i> ; published online Aug. 28, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.511410 Contact: Debasish Bhattacharyya, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata, India e-mail: debasish@iicb.res.in Contact: Payel Bhattacharjee, same affiliation as above e-mail: payel.iicb@gmail.com