This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Microtubule-associated protein- τ (MAPT; TAU; FTDP-17)	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies identified anti-TAU mAbs that could be useful for treating AD. TAU aggregation is thought to contribute to late-stage AD. In cell culture, anti-TAU mAbs prevented the spreading of TAU aggregation. In a mouse model of AD driven by Tau overexpression, intracerebroventricular administration of anti-Tau mAbs decreased Tau aggregation and increased cognitive function compared with no antibody. Next steps could include testing anti-TAU mAbs in other models of AD that feature TAU pathology.</p> <p>TauRx Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has LMTX, a small molecule inhibitor of TAU aggregation, in Phase III testing for AD.</p> <p>At least four other companies have TAU-targeted therapeutics in preclinical or Phase I development to treat AD.</p> <p>SciBX 6(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1196 Published online Oct. 31, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Yanamandra, K. <i>et al. Neuron</i>; published online Sept. 26, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2013.07.046</p> <p>Contact: David M. Holtzman, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: holtzman@neuro.wustl.edu</p> <p>Contact: Marc I. Diamond, same affiliation as above e-mail: diamondm@neuro.wustl.edu</p>