This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Prion protein (PRNP; PrP; CD230)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest the soluble N1 fragment of PrP could help treat AD. <i>In vitro</i> , both the N1 fragment and full-length PrP bound synthetic β -amyloid (A β) oligomers and inhibited fibril formation. In a mouse model for A β toxicity, intracerebroventricular microinfusion of A β oligomers impaired cognition and behavior, whereas microinfusion of a mixture of A β oligomers and N1 did not. Next steps include designing N1-derived peptides with improved CNS penetration.	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Fluharty, B.R. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i> ; published online Jan. 28, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M112.423954 Contact: Emiliano Biasini, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. e-mail: biasini@bu.edu
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