This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Peripheral benzodiazepine receptor (TSPO; PBR)	Mouse studies suggest TSPO ligands could be used to treat AD. TSPO ligands have been shown to be neuroprotective. In both young adult and aged adult transgenic mouse models for AD, intraperitoneal injection of the TSPO ligand Ro5-4864 led to increases in working memory and attention compared with vehicle. In these mice, Ro5-4864 also decreased hippocampal β-amyloid (Aβ) accumulation, gliosis and anxiety. In normal mice, combined injection of Ro5-4864 and another TSPO ligand, PK-11195, significantly decreased Aβ40 levels compared with vehicle ($p < 0.001$). Ongoing efforts include evaluating TSPO ligands with neural permeability. SciBX 6(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.550 Published online June 6, 2013	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Barron, A.M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online May 15, 2013; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1350-13.2013 Contact: Christian J. Pike, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: cjpik@usc.edu