This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	NLR family pyrin domain containing 3 (NLRP3; NALP3); caspase-1 (CASP1)	Human tissue, cell culture and mouse studies suggest antagonizing NALP3 or CASP1 could help prevent AD. In postmortem patient brain tissue samples, CASP1 activity was higher than that in tissue from healthy controls. In a transgenic mouse model of AD, deletion of <i>Nalp3</i> or <i>Casp1</i> increased learning and memory and decreased both neuroinflammation and accumulation of β -amyloid (A β) aggregates compared with no deletion. Next steps include identifying compounds that inhibit <i>Nalp3</i> or <i>Casp1</i> and testing them in mouse models of AD.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Heneka, M.T. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Dec. 19, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11729 Contact: Eicke Latz, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany e-mail: eicke.latz@uni-bonn.de Contact: Michael T. Heneka, same affiliation as above e-mail: michael.heneka@ukb.uni-bonn.de
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