This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Liver X receptor- β (NR1H2; LXR- β)	SAR and mouse studies suggest flavonoid LXR- β agonists could be useful for treating AD. In cultured microglia, flavonoid LXR- β agonists upregulated lipid transport proteins that could counteract β -amyloid (A β) in AD without also causing lipid and triglyceride accumulation in liver cells. In a mouse model of AD, the lead compound decreased total brain A β compared with vehicle control. Next steps include further optimizing the compounds and testing their functional effects in mouse AD models. Vitae Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s LXR- β agonist, VTP-4, is in preclinical development for AD.	Patent pending; available for licensing	Hu, Y. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online July 11, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm301913k Contact: Xianzhang Bu, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China e-mail: phsbxzh@mail.sysu.edu.cn
SciBX 6(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.898 Published online Aug. 29, 2013				