This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Legumain (LGMN; AEP); microtubule-associated protein- τ (MAPT; tau; FTDP-17)	<i>In vitro</i> , patient sample and mouse studies suggest inhibiting AEP could help treat AD. Brain tissue samples from patients with AD and a mouse model of the disease showed higher AEP activity than samples from healthy controls. <i>In vitro</i> assays showed that AEP cleaved human tau into neurotoxic fragments. In the mouse AD model, <i>Aep</i> knockout or hippocampal expression of an uncleavable variant of full-length human tau decreased memory and learning deficits compared with wild-type <i>Aep</i> expression or hippocampal expression of normal human tau. Ongoing studies include identifying and testing an orally available AEP inhibitor in AD models.	Patent applications filed; available for licensing	Zhang, Z. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online Oct. 19, 2014; doi:10.1038/nm.3700 Contact: Keqiang Ye, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: kye@emory.edu Contact: Liming Cheng, Tongji University School of Medicine, Shanghai, China e-mail: limingcheng@tongji.edu.cn
SciBX 7(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1241 Published online Oct. 30, 2014				