This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Microtubule-associated protein- τ (MAPT; tau; FTDP-17)	<p>Mouse imaging studies suggest insoluble tau aggregates may be a side effect rather than a cause in AD. In the visual cortex of mice overexpressing a human mutant form of tau (P301L), neurofibrillary tangle (NFT)-bearing neurons were functionally intact and indistinguishable from non-NFT-bearing neurons. Next steps could include assessing the impact of NFTs on neurons at distinct locations in the brain or at later time points during disease.</p> <p>At least four companies have compounds or antibodies that target tau in Phase I or earlier development to treat AD.</p> <p>SciBX 7(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.92 Published online Jan. 23, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Kuchibhotla, K.V. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 24, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1318807111</p> <p>Contact: Bradley T. Hyman, Harvard Medical School, Charlestown, Mass. e-mail: bhyman@partners.org</p>